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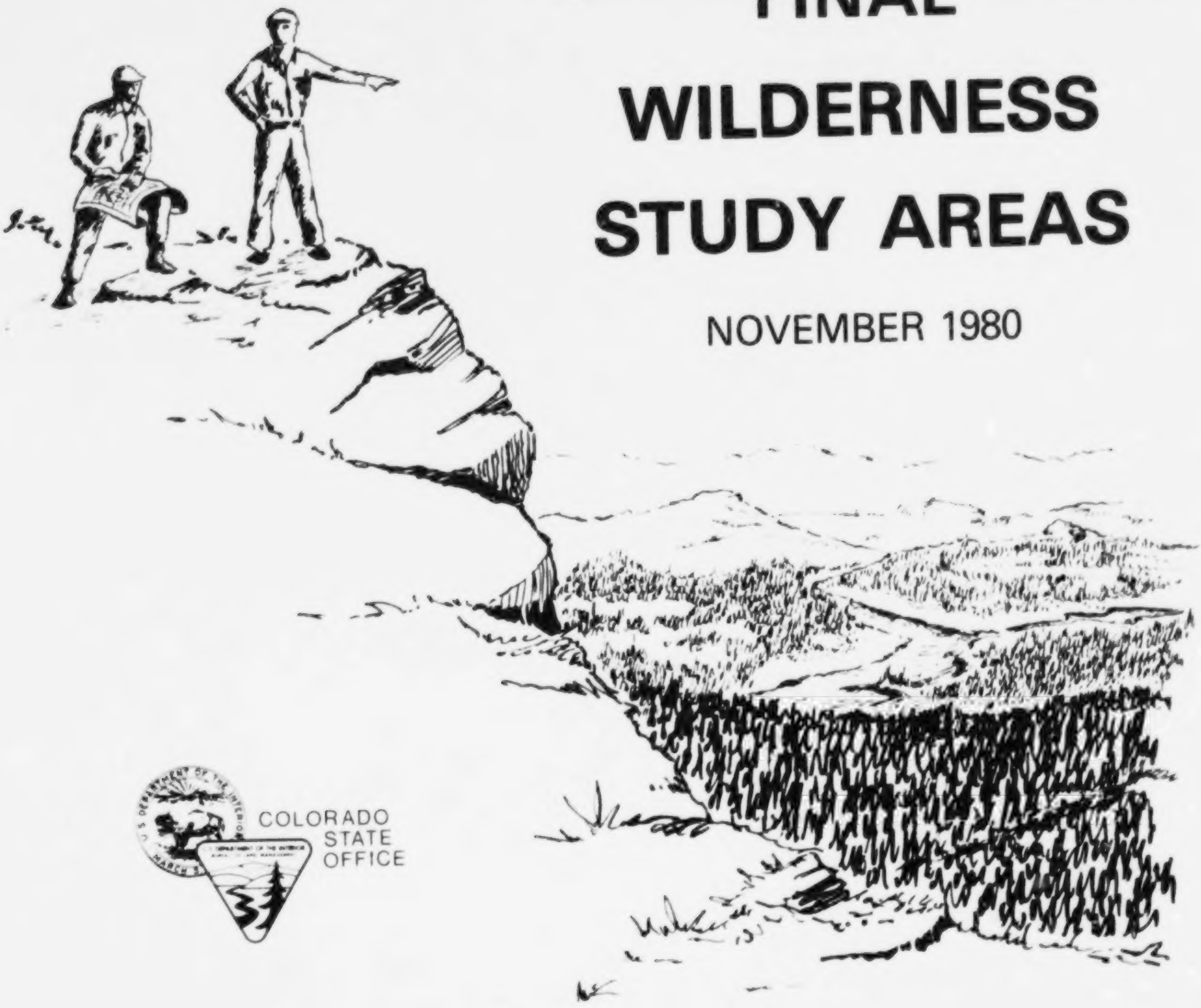
FINAL WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

NOVEMBER 1980



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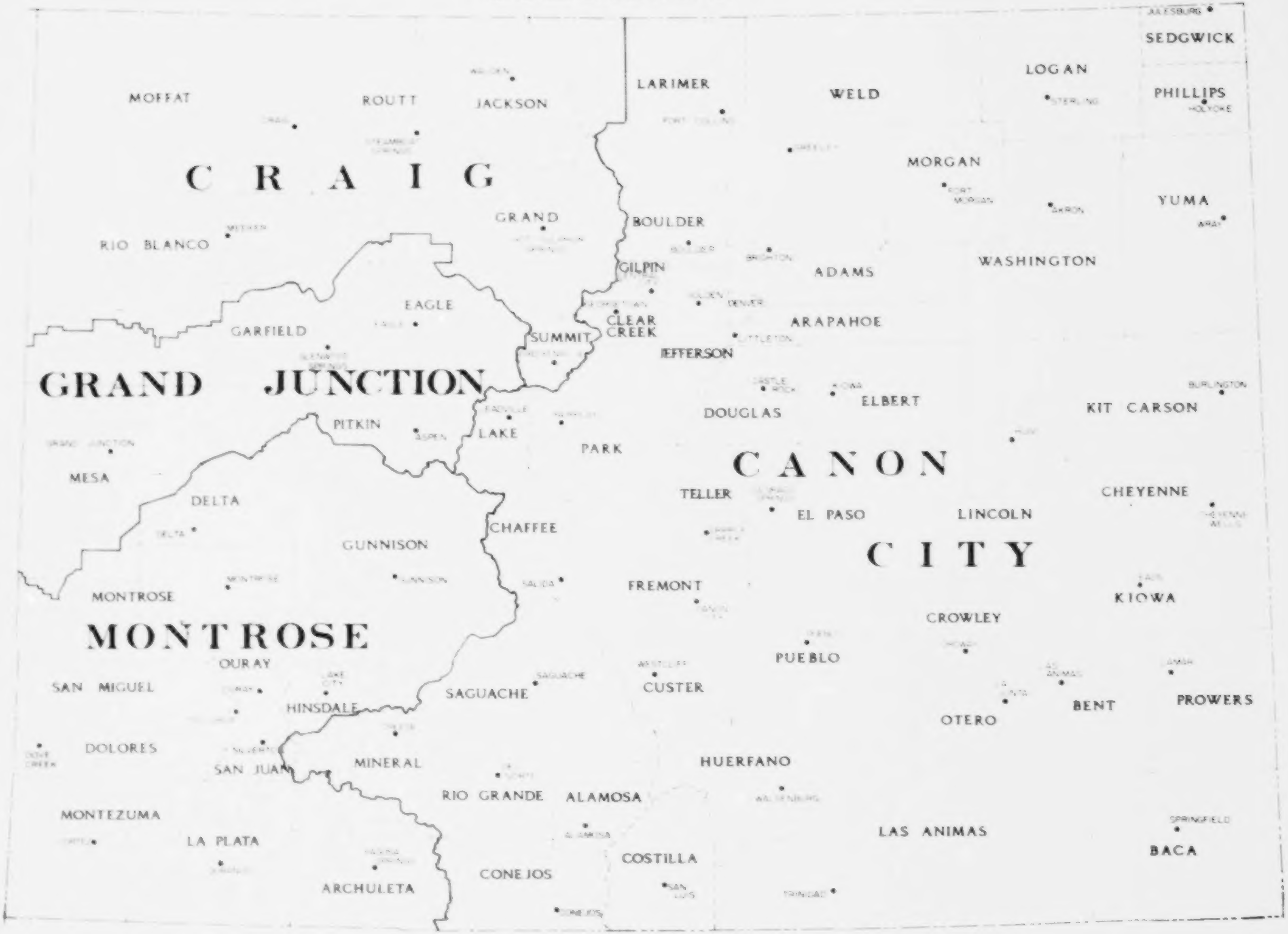
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INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY

Analysis of Public Comment and Final Wilderness Study Areas

November 1980

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management • Colorado

Canon City District
Craig District
Grand Junction District
Montrose District
Colorado State Office

COLORADO STATE DIRECTOR'S
PROPOSED INTENSIVE WILDERNESS
INVENTORY DECISION
NOVEMBER 1980

	IDENTIFIED AS WSA		NOT IDENTIFIED AS WSA	
DISTRICT	# UNITS	# ACRES	# UNITS	# ACRES*
Craig	15	169,634	24	147,330
Montrose	31	318,795	5	89,235
Canon City	11	88,258	4	34,920
Grand Junction	13	227,415	15	241,217
TOTAL	70	804,102	48	512,702

*This is an approximate figure and includes entire intensive inventory units not identified as WSAs and also boundary adjustment acreages found not to contain wilderness characteristics in units identified as WSAs.

COMMENTS RECEIVED FEBRUARY 1, 1980 - APRIL 30, 1980

Craig District - 527

Montrose District - 870

Canon City District - 180

Grand Junction District - 682

Total Comments Statewide - 901*

*A comment often refers to more than one inventory unit in more than one BLM District. Thus, the total comments received statewide is not a total of all District comments. District totals only reflect comments to specific wilderness inventory units while the statewide total reflects both general and specific comments.

An additional 2,700 coupons providing general support for WSA identification of most inventory units were received but are not reflected in the above totals.

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FOREWORD

After a thorough analysis and evaluation of public comments, the Bureau of Land Management has identified those areas in Colorado which qualify as Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). The BLM has determined that these areas do contain wilderness characteristics as defined by the Wilderness Act of 1964 and should be studied to determine whether or not they should be recommended to Congress as suitable or non-suitable for designation as wilderness. At this time the BLM is not recommending that these areas should or should not be designated Wilderness. Only after a complete study where all resources are evaluated, will a suitability or non-suitability determination be made.

All procedures for evaluating wilderness criteria are contained in the BLM Wilderness Inventory Handbook, published September 27, 1978. The general procedure for analyzing public comments is outlined in this handbook. Copies are available from any office of the Bueau of Land Management.

The narratives included within this report are summaries of detailed intensive inventory reports. The intensive wilderness inventory reports as well as larger, more detailed maps, and photographs are maintained in permanent documentation files. These files are available for public inspection in the BLM Colorado State Office and appropriate District and Area Offices.

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ALPHABETICAL INDEX OF INVENTORY UNITS 443

INTENSIVE INVENTORY

DECISIONS

November 1980

INVENTORY NUMBER	AREA NAME	IDENTIFIED AS WSA	NOT IDENTIFIED AS WSA	PAGE
Craig District				
CO-010-001	Bull Canyon	X		30
CO-010-002	Willow Creek	X		34
CO-010-003	Skull Creek	X		38
CO-010-006B	Pinyon Ridge		X	82
CO-010-007A*	Black Mountain	X		42
CO-010-007C	Windy Gulch	X		48
CO-010-046	Oil Spring Mountain	X		52
CO-010-00N1-N6A	Adjacent To DNM (10 Units) (South Boundary)	X		106
CO-010-155	Troublesome	X		56
CO-010-168	Drowsy Water		X	86
CO-010-178	Yarmony Mountain		X	90
CO-010-208	Cold Springs West	X		62
CO-010-208E	Limestone		X	94
CO-010-210	Irish Canyon		X	98
CO-010-210D	Douglas Draw		X	102
CO-010-214	Diamond Breaks	X		66
CO-010-230	Cross Mountain	X		70
CO-010-218, 218A, 227, 271/N6B	Adjacent to DNM (North Boundary)		X	112
CO-010-224,224A, 226, 228, 229D	Adjacent to DNM (North Boundary)	X		76
UT-080-104	Wild Mountain		X	118
UT-080-110	Hoy Mountain		X	122
UT-080-114	Pot Creek		X	126
Montrose District				
CO-030-053A	Steers Gulch	X		132
CO-030-057	Willow Creek	X		136
CO-030-063	Dillon Mesa	X		140
CO-030-085	Bill Hare Gulch	X		144
CO-030-086	Larson Creek	X		148
CO-030-088	Sparling Gulch	X		152
CO-030-089	Powderhorn ISA	X		12
CO-030-208	Red Cloud Peak	X		156
CO-030-210	Rambouillet Park		X	246
CO-030-211	Slumgullion Slide	X		160
CO-030-212	Waterdog Lake		X	250
CO-030-213	Friends Creek	X		164
CO-030-217	American Flats	X		168
CO-030-229A	West Needles Contiguous	X		172

*Portions of unit CO-010-007B, Berry Point, are now included in this unit.

INVENTORY NUMBER	NAME	IDENTIFIED AS WSA	NOT IDENTIFIED AS WSA	PAGE
Montrose District (Continued)				
CO-030-229B	Needle Creek	X		176
CO-030-230B	Whitehead Gulch	X		180
CO-030-238B	Weminuche Contiguous	X		184
CO-030-241	Handies Peak	X		188
CO-030-251	Menefee Mountain	X		192
CO-030-252	Weber Mountain	X		196
CO-030-253	Mesa Verde Contiguous		X	254
CO-030-262	Hamilton Mesa		X	258
CO-030-263	Rare Lizard and Snake ISA		X	262
CO-030-265	Cross Canyon	X		200
CO-030-265A	Squaw/Papoose Canyons	X		204
CO-030-265D	Cahone Canyon	X		208
CO-030-286	McKenna Peak	X		212
CO-030-290	Dolores River Canyon/ Coyote Wash	X		216
CO-030-300	Tabeguache Creek	X		220
CO-030-310A	Sewemup Mesa	X		364
CO-030-332	Baldy Peak Contiguous	X		224
CO-030-353	Camel Back	X		228
CO-030-363	Dominquez Canyon	X		360
CO-030-370A	Kannah Creek Contiguous	X		232
CO-030-370B	Adobe Badlands	X		236
CO-030-388	Gunnison Gorge	X		238
Canon City District				
CO-050-002	Browns Canyon	X		269
CO-050-010	Bear Mountain		X	318
CO-050-013	McIntyre Hills	X		272
CO-050-014	Lower Grape Creek	X		276
CO-050-016	Beaver Creek	X		280
CO-050-017	Upper Grape Creek	X		284
CO-050-033	Crystal Falls		X	314
CO-050-131	Black Canyon	X		288
CO-050-132B	South Piney Creek	X		292
CO-050-135	Sand Castle	X		296
CO-050-137	Papa Keal	X		300
CO-050-139B	Zapata Creek	X		304
CO-050-140	Flat Top		X	322
CO-050-141	San Luis Hills	X		308
CO-050-142	Twin Peaks		X	326

INVENTORY NUMBER	AREA NAME	IDENTIFIED AS WSA	NOT IDENTIFIED AS WSA	PAGE
Grand Junction District				
CO-070-001	Prairie Canyon		X	13
CO-070-009	Demaree Canyon	X		332
CO-070-015	Cow Ridge		X	386
CO-070-015A	Hunter Canyon		X	390
CO-070-015B	Garvey Canyon		X	394
CO-070-031	South Shale Ridge		X	398
CO-070-066	Little Bookcliffs Wildhorse Area	X		336
CO-070-103	Kannah Creek	X		340
CO-070-103A	Kannah Creek North	X		344
CO-070-113	Black Ridge Canyons	X		348
CO-070-113A	Black Ridge Canyons West	X		352
CO-070-130	Bangs Canyon		X	402
CO-070-130A	Rough Canyon		X	406
CO-070-132	The Palisade	X		356
CO-070-132A	Granite Creek		X	410
CO-070-132B	Renegade Creek		X	414
CO-070-138	West Unaweep		X	418
CO-070-150	Dominguez	X		360
CO-070-150A	Gunnison River		X	422
CO-070-176	Sewemup Mesa	X		364
CO-070-316	Grand Hogback		X	426
CO-070-338	Storm King		X	430
CO-070-372	Thompson Creek		X	434
CO-070-392	Eagle Mountain	X		368
CO-070-421	Pisgah Mountain		X	438
CO-070-425	Hack Lake	X		372
CO-070-430	Bull Gulch	X		376
CO-070-433	Castle Peak	X		380

I. FORMAT OF THIS REPORT

A. Arrangement of Summary Narratives

Summaries of all intensive inventory unit reports are included in this book, along with the analysis and evaluation of public comments for each intensive inventory unit. Some of the intensive inventory units, as a result of both intensive inventory fieldwork and input from the public, have been identified as Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs); others, lacking wilderness characteristics, have not been identified as WSAs.

The summary narratives are arranged by BLM districts; within each district section, the summaries for the WSAs precede the summaries for the non-WSAs. Within these final subdivisions, the inventory units are arranged in numerical order. District prefix numbers are:

010 - Craig

030 - Montrose

050 - Canon City

070 - Grand Junction

A numerical index of inventory units is contained in the front of this book and an alphabetical index at the end.

B. Summary Narrative Content

Each summary narrative describes the wilderness characteristics of an inventory unit as well as evaluations of the public comments as they address each of the wilderness characteristics. The length of the narrative and the detail provided is dependent upon several factors: (1) the size of the inventory unit, (2) the number of imprints of man within the unit, (3) the amount and content of public comments received on the unit, and (4) the number of boundary adjustments made as a result of public comments and additional field work.

C. Boundary Adjustments

Numerous boundary adjustments have been made on several units since the inception of the inventory in 1978. Each summary narrative contains an "Inventory History" on each unit, briefly outlining the acreage adjustments which have been made over the past two years of the inventory. For detailed information refer to the Permanent Documentation Files kept in the appropriate District Office or the State Office in Denver.

D. Maps

Each summary narrative is accompanied by a map, most of which are 1/2 inch-to-the-mile in scale. The portions of intensive inventory units identified as WSAs are shaded; that portion not identified is outlined in black. Whole units not identified as WSAs are simply outlined in black. In all cases, non-public land inholdings including state lands are not calculated in the acreage being inventoried for wilderness characteristics, nor are these lands themselves inventoried. When possible, these inholdings are shown on the enclosed maps. Often, in the case of patented mining claims, these inholdings are too small to be noted on the maps, but these are mentioned in the summary narrative for the unit.

Due to the small scale of these maps, much information cannot be shown. More detailed maps, showing imprints of man and photo points (with accompanying slides) are contained in the Permanent Documentation Files. Several other types of maps which may be of additional help are available from various sources, including:

Colorado State Planning Office Photo Maps

These are enlarged from high altitude vertical aerial photographs, and lack annotation of place names, cultural and natural features, etc. They correspond in scale (1:24,000) and area covered to a standard 7 1/2 minute U.S. Geological Survey topographic map and are identified by the same name. These photo maps may be purchased from the Colorado State Planning Office (Centennial Building, 1313 Sherman Street, Denver, CO 80203).

U.S.G.S. Topographic

These are the standard 7 1/2 minute topographic maps (scale 1:24,000) prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey. For some of the study units the topographic coverage may be 15 minute guadrangles (scale 1:62,500). The U.S. Geological Survey sells the maps, as do some bookstores.

Colorado Surface Minerals Management Color Quad

These are Bureau of Land Mangement maps, scale 1/2 inch equal to one mile, covering areas of approximately 30 miles x 36 miles. They show Federal land ownership - National Parks and Monuments, National Forests, and Bureau of Land Mangement administered lands - and private lands in which various minerals have been reserved to the United States. They can be purchased from the Bureau of Land Managment District and Resource Area Office in which the study units are located. The enclosed maps are black and white copies of these maps.

II. BACKGROUND

A. Overview of BLM's Wilderness Review Process

The BLM's wilderness review process is being conducted in three phases: Inventory, Study and Report.

Phase I - Inventory: The inventory phase has two parts, initial and intensive. Its overall purpose is to identify those public lands having wilderness characteristics as defined by the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Initial Inventory: In this stage, public lands administered by the BLM which clearly and obviously do not have wilderness characteristics were identified. Existing information, such as maps and aerial photos, and input received from the public were utilized to make this decision. Three criteria had to be met for an area to be recommended for intensive inventory. Each were (1) at least 5,000 acres in size or contiguous to a proposed or existing wilderness area, (2) roadless, and (3) substantially free of man's imprints.

The proposed initial inventory decision was released by the Colorado State Director March 22, 1979. A 90-day public comment period followed, from May 1 to July 31, 1979, becoming effective for all inventory units December 13, 1979. A total of approximately 6,685,000 acres of "public land" in Colorado were released from wilderness consideration.

Intensive Inventory: In this stage, as reflected in this report, field surveys were conducted. Each area was examined to determine the presence or absence of wilderness qualities listed in the Wilderness Act: naturalness, the presence of outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation, and the presence of supplemental values. For an area to qualify as a Wilderness Study Area, it had to be substantially natural and have either outstanding opportunities for solitude or outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. A total of approximately 1,311,000 acres of public land contained within 119 inventory units were intensively inventoried in Colorado. Each of these areas are discussed in this book.

Fieldwork for the intensive inventory was conducted during the summer and fall, 1979. As this report indicates, the proposed Wilderness Study Area decision for Colorado was released February 1, 1980. The public comment period for this proposed decision ran from February 1, 1980 to April 30, 1980. This report presents the final decision on which areas will be Wilderness Study Areas, after having evaluated the input from public comments received.

Phase II - Study: The study phase of the Wilderness Review will be completed as a part of regional comprehensive land-use plans. During each planning effort, the public will have several opportunities to comment upon other resource values within a Wilderness Study Area. These comments will be considered in making land-use decisions prior to subsequent recommendations to the President and Congress on an area's suitability or nonsuitability as Wilderness. This phase will begin as soon as the final Wilderness Study Area decision is made in late summer, 1980.

Phase III - Report: Recommendations on an area's suitability or nonsuitability for wilderness designation are reported to Congress through the Secretary of the Interior and the President. Reports on all WSAs must be submitted to the President by September 21, 1991.

B. Instant Study Areas (ISAs)

In accordance with section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, all existing natural or primitive areas automatically became Instant Wilderness Study Areas. Congress directed that all designated primitive and natural areas currently administered by BLM be inventoried and evaluated on an accelerated schedule to determine their suitability for wilderness designation. Five of these areas are located in Colorado and were identified on the Initial Wilderness Inventory Map.

These are:

Unit Name	District	Number
North Sand Hills	Craig	CO-010-108
Needle Rock	Montrose	No Number Assigned
High Mesa Grassland	Canon City	CO-050-009
Rare Lizard and Snake	Montrose	CO-030-263
Powderhorn	Montrose	CO-030-89

Intensive Inventories and Study Reports (to be sent to Congress) have been completed for North Sand Hills, Needle Rock and High Mesa Grassland, with the recommendation that these areas do not have wilderness characteristics. Public reviews were held in 1979, and the reports which will be submitted to Congress can be examined at the appropriate District Office or in the State Office in Denver. These areas are no longer shown on the Statewide map, nor are they included in this report.

The report on the suitability of Rare Lizard and Snake ISA as wilderness was deferred until its contiguous lands were inventoried. Since the inventory is not completed, a study report recommending that the area is not suitable as Wilderness will be sent to Congress next year. The intensive inventory recommendations are found in this report.

The Powderhorn ISA was determined to have wilderness characteristics in an accelerated intensive inventory which was conducted in 1978-79. A land-use plan completed in spring 1979 recommended the area be designated as a "Wilderness Area" by Congress. The draft Wilderness Suitability Report and a draft environmental statement was released for a 90-day public review in May 1980.

Comments received on the Powderhorn intensive inventory will be addressed in the final Environmental Impact Statement in spring 1981. For further information, contact the BLM District Office in Montrose.

C. Special Project Areas

In two special cases in Colorado, the BLM has had to conduct accelerated wilderness inventories of (1) two general areas within the State, and (2) a single inventory unit.

Montrose and Craig Districts

A portion of the Montrose and Craig BLM Districts in Colorado were scheduled for accelerated wilderness review as a result of a 1975 court decision requiring the BLM to complete numerous site specific environmental statements on livestock grazing. BLM in Colorado had to initiate work on these ESs in the spring of 1979 to meet established schedules. This required that all resources inventories, including wilderness, be completed prior to beginning the ESs. Each narrative included in this book contains an "Inventory History" section; MOU areas included within a special project area are so noted in this section.

Prairie Canyon - Inventory Unit CO-070-001

The Prairie Canyon Unit, which includes lands in Utah, underwent an accelerated wilderness review in 1979 because of oil and gas conflicts. Based on intensive inventory, the 27,900 acre unit (Colorado, 10,200 acres, Utah, 17,700 acres) was found to be lacking in outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation and therefore was not recommended as a WSA. Because a larger part of the unit was in the Moab, Utah District, the Utah State Director took the lead on this accelerated review.

The Utah State Director announced his decision that the unit did not qualify as a WSA on August 17, 1979. During the following 30-day public review period, various public comments were received. Approximately half the comments agreed with BLM, and half did not. Comments specific to the unit primarily addressed the presence or absence of outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. The comments which disagreed with not proposing the unit as a WSA did not provide sufficient justification to show that outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation do exist.

After public comment review, the Utah State Director announced his decision to drop the Prairie Canyon Unit from further wilderness consideration in the December 5, 1979 Federal Register notice. A 30-day appeal period followed. No protests or appeals were received within this time period. Therefore, the Utah State Director announced in the January 17, 1980 Federal Register Notice that Prairie Canyon was no longer subject to wilderness review and interim management based on Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

D. Interim Management Policy

During the period of the wilderness review and until Congress acts on the President's recommendations on what areas are suitable for wilderness designation, the Secretary of the Interior is required to manage those lands having wilderness characteristics so as not to impair their suitability for preservation as wilderness, subject to certain exceptions and conditions. This management is referred to as "interim management" and is discussed in a document entitled Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review. This is available at any BLM office.

E. Definitions

Terminology specific to the BLM Wilderness Review Process has evolved throughout the inventory process. To facilitate better communication, the following terms elaborate on definitions already given in the Wilderness Inventory Handbook.

Cherrystemming: An unofficial term used to describe the way an inventory unit boundary is drawn to exclude a road or other imprint of man that enters the unit; the resulting boundary resembles a cherrystem.

Contiguous Lands: Lands or legal subdivisions having a common boundary. Lands having only a common corner are not contiguous.

FLPMA: Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (PL 94-579), which mandated the BLM Wilderness Review. Often referred to and pronounced "FLIPMA".

Instant Study Areas: Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act mandated that all primitive or natural areas formally identified prior to November 1, 1975, will be studied for wilderness suitability and recommended to the President by July 1, 1980. These existing primitive and natural areas are called Instant Study Areas, or ISAs.

Inventory Unit: Areas of public lands indexed for easy reference at the start of the wilderness inventory. All BLM lands in Colorado are within an inventory unit; these units may or may not be roadless. An official file for each unit is maintained at the BLM State and District offices and is available for public review.

Non-Public Land Inholdings: All non-federal lands, including state, county, or private land located within the inventory units. These lands are not calculated in the acreage being evaluated for wilderness nor are they being inventoried for wilderness characteristics.

Public Lands: For the purpose of the wilderness review program, any lands and interest in lands owned by the United States within the several states and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management, without regard to how the United States acquired ownership, except:

1. Lands where the United States owns the minerals but the surface is not Federally owned.

2. Lands being held for the benefit of Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos.

3. Lands tentatively approved for State selection in Alaska.

4. Lands on the Outer Continental Shelf.

5. Oregon and California grant (O & G) lands that are managed for commercial timber production.

RARE II: The wilderness inventory on lands administered by the Secretary of Agriculture through the United States Forest Service. The acronym stands for Roadless Area Review and Evaluation, and the "II" signifies that it is the second time the Forest Service has inventoried and evaluated the lands it administers for wilderness values.

Road: For the purposes of the BLM's wilderness inventory, the following definition is adopted: "The word 'roadless' refers to the absence of roads which have been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road."

To clarify this definition, the following subdefinitions also apply:

> "Improved and maintained" - Actions taken physically by man to keep the road open to vehicular traffic. "Improved" does not necessarily mean formal construction. "Maintained" does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.
>
> "Mechanical means" - Use of hand or power machinery or tools.
>
> "Relatively regular and continuous use" - Vehicular use which has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources; access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities; or access roads to mining claims.

Roadless: Refers to the absence of roads which have been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use.

Roadless Area: That area which is roadless, as defined above, and is bounded by a road, the edge of a right-of-way, other land ownership, or a significant imprint of man.

Situation Evaluation: Each wilderness inventory unit, whether roadless or not, has a situation evaluation written for it, describing the roads, size, and general naturalness of the area. These are the file documents associated with the initial inventory and are available at the District and State BLM offices.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are wilderness characteristics examined in the intensive wilderness inventory. Factors contributing to opportunities for solitude are vegetative screening, topographic relief, vistas, and physiographic variety.

Supplemental Values: Features of ecological, geological, or other scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value that may be present in an inventory unit. These are not necessary criteria for wilderness suitability, as is stated in the Wilderness Act of 1964, but must be assessed during the intensive wilderness inventory.

Way: A two-wheel track created only by the passage of vehicles. A "way" is not a road.

Wilderness: The definition contained in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 is as follows: "A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. Wilderness is an area of undeveloped federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Wilderness Area: An area formally designated by Congress as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics: Those characteristics of wilderness as described in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act. These include size, naturalness, solitude, primitive or unconfined type of recreation, and supplemental values.

Wilderness Inventory: An evaluation of the public lands in the form of a written description and a map showing those lands that meet the wilderness criteria as established under Section 603(a) of FLPMA and Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act. The lands meeting the criteria will be referred to as Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). Those lands identified as not meeting wilderness criteria will be released from further wilderness consideration.

Wilderness Review: The term used to cover the entire wilderness inventory, study, and reporting phases of the wilderness program of the BLM.

F. Inventory Units Adjacent to Utah

Several wilderness inventory units span the Colorado-Utah border. The two states combined efforts in conducting the intensive inventory fieldwork, coming to joint conclusions on whether or not an area should become a Wilderness Study Area. While the BLM in Colorado announced the beginning of the 90-day public comment period February 1, 1980, Utah did not do so until April 2, 1980. As a result, Utah BLM had not completed their analysis of public comment statewide when the BLM in Colorado made their final decision on which areas should become Wilderness Study Areas. The BLM in Utah did, however, give priority to the units adjoining Colorado, and their input is reflected in the decisions in this book.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Overview

This report presents the results of the analysis of public comments received during the 90-day public comment period on Colorado BLM's proposed Intensive Inventory decision which ran from February 1, 1980 to April 30, 1980. Public comments utilized at this point in the wilderness inventory noted the presence or absence of the following wilderness characteristics, as defined by the Wilderness Act of 1964:

* Naturalness (including roadlessness)
* Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive, Unconfined Recreation
* Supplemental Values
* Possibility of the Area Returning to a Natural Condition

Several factors contribute to the presence of these characteristics and were used in evaluating each inventory unit. The explanation of each of these characteristics follows.

B. How Wilderness Characteristics Were Evaluated

1. Naturalness

> "...generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable..."
>
> Wilderness Act of 1964

The area must appear to be generally natural. An area may include some imprints of man provided they are substantially unnoticeable. Trails, signs, bridges, fences, stream barriers, snow gauges, spring developments, and the like may be permitted in a WSA, if they are substantially unnoticeable and do not detract from the overall naturalness of the area.

Imprints of man outside a unit are not normally considered in assessing the area's naturalness.

2. Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

> "Has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation..."
>
> Wilderness Act of 1964

Two key words appear here: "or" and "outstanding". Either opportunity for solitude or opportunities for primitive recreation must be present for an area to qualify as a WSA; both need not be present. These opportunities must be outstanding in order for an area to qualify as a WSA. Opportunities for either solitude or primitive recreation may exist in an inventory unit, but if these opportunities are not outstanding, the area does not qualify as a WSA.

Outstanding opportunities for solitude are defined by the physical setting of an inventory unit:

> *Vegetative screening - Does the area have diversity of grasses, trees, shrubs? How thick is the growth and how does it screen individuals from one another?
> *Topographic screening - Does the topographic variation help screen individuals from one another within an inventory unit?
> *Configuration of an inventory unit - Is the unit of a reasonably blocked configuration? Do "cherrystemmed" roads exist, (see definitions) possibly affecting solitude opportunities?
> *Size in conjunction with topography and vegetation - For example, a flat, non-vegetated unit of 100,000 acres might have outstanding opportunities for solitude, while a similiar unit of 5,000 acres might not.
> *Vastness versus intimacy - Does the area have distant vistas? Are there opportunities to be secluded?

In making the determination whether an area has outstanding opportunities for a primitive, unconfined type of recreation, the BLM considered those activities that provide dispersed, undeveloped recreation which do not require facilities or motorized equipment. Examples of primitive and unconfined types of recreation are:

> Hiking, backpacking, fishing, hunting, spelunking, horseback riding, mountain or rock climbing, river running, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, dog sledding, photography, bird watching, canoeing, kayaking, sailing, and sightseeing for botanical, zoological, or geological features.

3. Supplemental Values

> "...ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value."
>
> Wilderness Act of 1964

The presence or lack of supplemental values, will not determine whether an inventory unit becomes a WSA. These values are not essential for WSA status. These often can, however, contribute to opportunities for primitive recreation.

This information will be valuable in phase two, study. Using the BLM planning system these supplemental values can be protected and managed to preserve and enhance their uniqueness under other administrative procedures, if wilderness designation is not made.

4. Possibility of the Area Returning to a Natural Condition

Most imprints of man having a significant impact on the naturalness of an area have been excluded from intensive inventory units. When the impact of man's imprints is only moderate, there is often the possibility of returning the area to a substantially unnoticeable level by natural processes or hand labor. This is dependent on the kind of imprint, the topography, the vegetation, the amount of rainfall, and so forth.

C. How Public Comments Were Analyzed - Content Analysis

The BLM objective for the Intensive Wilderness Inventory was to treat each public comment as fully and fairly as possible. To accomplish this the Colorado State Office of the BLM adopted a content analysis process. This process generally has 2 phases, analysis and evaluation.

1. Analysis

The "analysis" of public comment was nonevaluative. It simply identified public comment in a summarized form. Careful consideratión was made in analyzing comments to insure that no judgmental or interpretive words, phrases, or statements were inferred by the BLM. Each District summarized the total comments received for each area with regard to naturalness, opportunities for solitude, opportunities for primitive, unconfined recreation, supplemental values, and reclamation potential. Other information was noted and will be considered at the proper time (usually in the "study phase" of the BLM wilderness review).

2. Evaluation

The second step of content analysis was the "evaluation" of public comment. This is an explanation of the significance and soundness of the public comments either collectively or individually. A critical aspect of this evaluation is a field check, when a specific public raised a question that needed field resolution.

This system differs from a tally method of treating information, in that numerical amounts of comments had little effect on WSA recommendations. Only if specific information concerning wilderness characteristics was provided could a comment be effective in changing or impacting the decision. In other words vote-counting had no part in the content analysis of public comment. Tabular information was collected but the actual content of the comments was the source of reference for making recommendations.

This procedure was enacted for every letter that arrived during the public comment period. After the comment deadline, all of the letters were evaluated for each inventory unit. Rationale for decisions or changes in decisions was then determined on the basis of the public comment.

All analysis sheets are attached to the public comments in the appropriate permanent documentation files. An additional explanation of how letters were analyzed is available in the BLM State Office in Denver.

D. Statewide Summary of Public Comments

The public comment period for the Colorado BLM Intensive Wilderness Inventory started on February 1, 1980 and ended on April 30, 1980. During this period, approximately 900 comments were received. Many letters addressed more than one unit and more than one district.

Generally there were five types of comments.

1. General Comments

Approximately 135 comments were received expressing general perceptions regarding the intensive inventory; these usually expressed general support for the concept of "Wilderness", or lack thereof. Copies of these comments are available in the BLM Colorado State Office.

2. Specific Comments

Approximately 538 comments were received that referred to specific intensive wilderness inventory units. A copy of each comment has been placed in the inventory unit permanent documentation file to which it refers. Because comments often referred to more than one inventory unit, copies of the comments are often located in several files. The summary total of each district reflects this. The original comment is filed alphabetically in the BLM State Office in Denver.

3. Proposals and Support Comments

a. The State of Colorado Department of Natural Resources supported BLM's proposal that 66 units be identified as Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). Additionally, the DNR proposed that the following units also be identified as WSAs:

CO-010-006B	Pinyon Ridge
CO-010-007B	Berry Point
CO-010-208E	Limestone
CO-010-210	Irish Canyon
CO-010-218	Dinosaur Adjacent - North
CO-010-224	Dinosaur Adjacent - North
CO-010-224A	Dinosaur Adjacent - North

CO-010-226	Dinosaur Adjacent - North
CO-010-228	Dinosaur Adjacent - North
CO-010-229D	Dinosaur Adjacent - North
CO-010-00N6B/271	Dinosaur Adjacent - South
CO-010-00N6A	Dinosaur Adjacent - South
CO-010-00N4B	Dinosaur Adjacent - South
UT-080-104	Wild Mountain
CO-030-263	Rare Lizard and Snake ISA
CO-050-140	Flat Top
CO-070-001	Prairie Canyon
CO-070-015A	Hunter Canyon
CO-070-015B	Garvey Canyon
CO-070-031	South Shale Ridge
CO-070-130	Bang's Canyon
CO-070-130A	Rough Canyon
CO-070-132A	Granite Creek
CO-070-132B	Renegade Creek
CO-070-150A	Gunnison River

b. The Colorado BLM Wilderness Coalition (BLMWC), composed of thirteen conservation groups in Colorado, submitted an organized proposal which received wide support. Members of the BLMWC include the following groups:

Rocky Mountain Chapter of Sierra Club
Colorado Open Space Council Wilderness Workshop
Colorado Mountain Club
University of Colorado Wilderness Study Group
Friends of the Earth
Wilderness Society
Uncompahgre Resource Council
Public Lands Institute
San Juan Ecological Society
Two Rivers Citizen's Alliance
Colorado Sportsman's Council
San Miguel Citizen's Alliance
National Audubon Society

Like the Colorado State Department of Natural Resources, the BLMWC supported the 66 areas recommended as WSAs by the BLM. An additional 28 areas were also recommended as a part of their proposal:

CO-010-N4B	Units adjacent to Dinosaur National Monument
CO-010-N6A	
CO-010-218	
CO-010-224	
CO-010-224A	
CO-010-226	
CO-010-227	
CO-010-228	
CO-010-229D	

CO-010-N6B/271	
UT-080-104	Wild Mountain
UT-080-114	Pot Creek
CO-010-208E	Limestone
CO-010-210	Irish Canyon
CO-010-006B	Pinyon Ridge
CO-030-263	Rare Lizard and Snake ISA
CO-050-140	Flat Top
CO-070-001	Prairie Canyon
CO-070-15A	Hunter Canyon
CO-070-15B	Garvey Canyon
CO-070-031	South Shale Ridge
CO-070-130	Bang's Canyon
CO-070-130A	Rough Canyon
CO-070-132A	Granite Creek
CO-070-132B	Renegade Creek
CO-070-138	West Unaweep
CO-070-150A	Gunnison River
CO-070-372	Thompson Creek

Approximately 60 letters supporting this proposal were received and are filed as a group in the Colorado State Office. When these support letters mentioned a unit specifically, a copy was also placed in each pertinent intensive wilderness inventory unit file. The original letters are filed alphabetically in the Colorado State Office. Copies of the proposal for each unit were placed in the appropriate files.

A national wilderness support effort, coordinated by the Wilderness Society, Friends of the Earth, and Sierra Club, endorsed the BLMWC proposal. Called the Colorado Conservationist Proposal, this effort generated approximately 1,923 coupons, which were received by the April 30, 1980 deadline, and approximately 789 coupons which were received after that date. Additionally, 210 handwritten letters supporting the Colorado Conservationists Proposal were also received. The letters and coupons offered general WSA support but provided no unit-specific information. These letters and coupons are filed alphabetically in the Colorado State Office.

4. Meetings

a. The BLM held fourteen public meetings throughout the State in February, 1980. At each meeting the BLM staff offered the members of the public the opportunity to provide either written or oral comments. These comments are on file in the appropriate inventory unit files.

b. Colorado Club 20, a group of industries and communities in Western Colorado, held citizen's hearings on March 25, 1980 in Craig, Colorado, on March 26, in Montrose and on March 27 in Grand Junction. Club 20 submitted transcripts and written comments from these hearings. These written comments and testimony transcripts were analyzed individually and copies were placed in the appropriate inventory unit files. The original hearing transcripts are in their original aggregate form and kept in the Colorado State Office. The written comments are filed alphabetically in the Colorado State Office.

5. Media Coverage

News articles printed during the Intensive Wilderness Inventory Public Comment Period (February 1, 1980 through April 30, 1980) that related to the inventory were collected and organized by district. These are kept in the Colorado State Office. Comprehensive news coverage of all BLM activities is available in the office of Public Affairs of the BLM Colorado State Office.

6. Late Comments

Comments were received after the April 30 deadline. Due to a tight schedule, these comments were not accounted for in the statewide analysis of public comments. However, these late comments were reviewed to insure consideration of any new data (i.e., information not already presented in the comments received during the comment period). Late comments will be retained and utilized during the study phase of the wilderness review.

E. Major Issues Raised by the Public

Many general concerns were expressed by members of the public, several by more than one individual. Some of these issues related to the application of wilderness inventory criteria, while many addressed problems that will be resolved at a later point in the BLM Wilderness review. Those comments pretaining to wilderness inventory criteria are discussed in the summary narratives for specific units. A brief discussion of the other concerns follows.

Other Resource Values

Many comments provided data pertinent to resource values other than wilderness in specific inventory units. Specifically these included oil and gas data, proposed hydroelectric or water projects, and grazing and minerals information. The comparison of wilderness values with other resource values is not part of the wilderness inventory process. The wilderness inventory is only for the purpose of determining the presence of roadless areas with wilderness characteristics. It is on that basis that Wilderness Study Areas are identified.

Wilderness is one of the many public lands resources to be given equal consideration in land-use management decisions. The relationship between all resources and uses is considered in the process of arriving at management decisions through the Bureau Planning System. Thus, Wilderness Study Areas are considered as one resource inventory input, and weighed against other resource values, uses, and needs in the planning process. In this way, BLM will determine which Wilderness Study Areas will be recommended to the President and Congress as suitable, and which non-suitable, for wilderness designation.

The information provided on other resource values will be maintained in the Wilderness Permanent Documentation Files and will be extremely valuable in the study phase of the Wilderness Review.

Air Quality

Several comments expressed the concern that the BLM would, as a result of the BLM Wilderness review, redesignate some areas as Class I Air Quality. Under the Clean Air Act (as amended, 1977), all BLM-administered lands were given Class II air quality classification, which allows moderate deterioration associated with moderate, well-controlled industrial and population growth. The BLM will continue to manage wilderness study areas as Class II.

The Department of the Interior will not recommend reclassification to the more strict Class I Air Quality classification in connection with future wilderness recommendation resulting from the BLM wilderness review. The two processes are separate and distinct, and are accomplished under two different laws, FLPMA and the Clean Air Act. Recommendations for wilderness designation are made by the BLM through the Secretary of the Interior and the President to Congress. Air quality reclassification is the prerogative of the States, and it must follow a process mandated by the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977, involving a study of health, environmental, economic, social, and energy effects, a public hearing, and a report to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Grazing

The BLM received a substantial number of comments concerned about grazing activities in both wilderness inventory units and designated Wilderness Areas. Congress considers grazing generally compatible with Wilderness. The Wilderness Act of 1964 specifically allows grazing in Wilderness Areas, and the BLM Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review outlines the BLM's mandate from FLPMA which not only allows for grazing in WSAs, but also permits the "grandfathering" of grazing activites. Grazing uses that existed on the date of approval of FLPMA (October 21, 1976) may continue in lands under the wilderness review in the same manner and degree as on that date, even if this impairs wilderness suitability. In most cases, however, grazing has not adversely impacted the naturalness of the BLM inventory units.

Resource Protection

Many comments noted features within the wilderness inventory units which need resource protection of some sort. Wilderness protection is but one of the many methods available to BLM to protect and manage environmental values. Wilderness desgination will not be used as a substitute for these other management methods.

Under FLPMA, the Bureau will identify Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and provide for their appropriate protection. This includes management for cultural and historical resources, endangered species, critical wildlife habitat, environmental education areas, outstanding and research natural areas, and natural hazards.

Information regarding critical environmental values which does not relate specifically to wilderness characteristics criteria was obtained during the wilderness inventory. This information is important and will be used in making management decisions to provide the most appropriate protection for the critical environmental resource identified. This will be done as part of BLM's ongoing land-use planning and multiple use resource management program.

F. Protest and Appeal of BLM's Intensive Wilderness Inventory Decisions

The BLM wilderness review procedures provide two additional opportunities for recourse to persons dissatisfied with the State Director's final intensive wilderness inventory decision.

1. Protest

A 30-day "protest period", beginning on the date of release of the final intensive wilderness inventory decision through this document and notice through the Federal Register, is provided under the BLM wilderness review procedures. During this period persons dissatisfied with the State Director's final intensive inventory decision may protest decisions on specific units. All such protests must be submitted under the following conditions:

a. Protests must be addressed to:

Colorado State Director
Bureau of Land Management
Room 700
Colorado State Bank Building
1600 Broadway
Denver, Colorado 80202

b. All correspondence meant to be considered a protest must be clearly identified as such.

c. All protests must be specific to an individual wilderness intensive inventory unit (one protest per unit).

d. All protests must be received by the Colorado State Director by the close of the 30-day protest period.

e. All protests must provide specific reasons and rationale stating exactly why there is disagreement with the State Director's final intensive inventory decision.

Each protest received will be analyzed and evaluated by the Colorado State Director on the basis of BLM wilderness inventory procedures. A specific response will be provided to the originator of each protest.

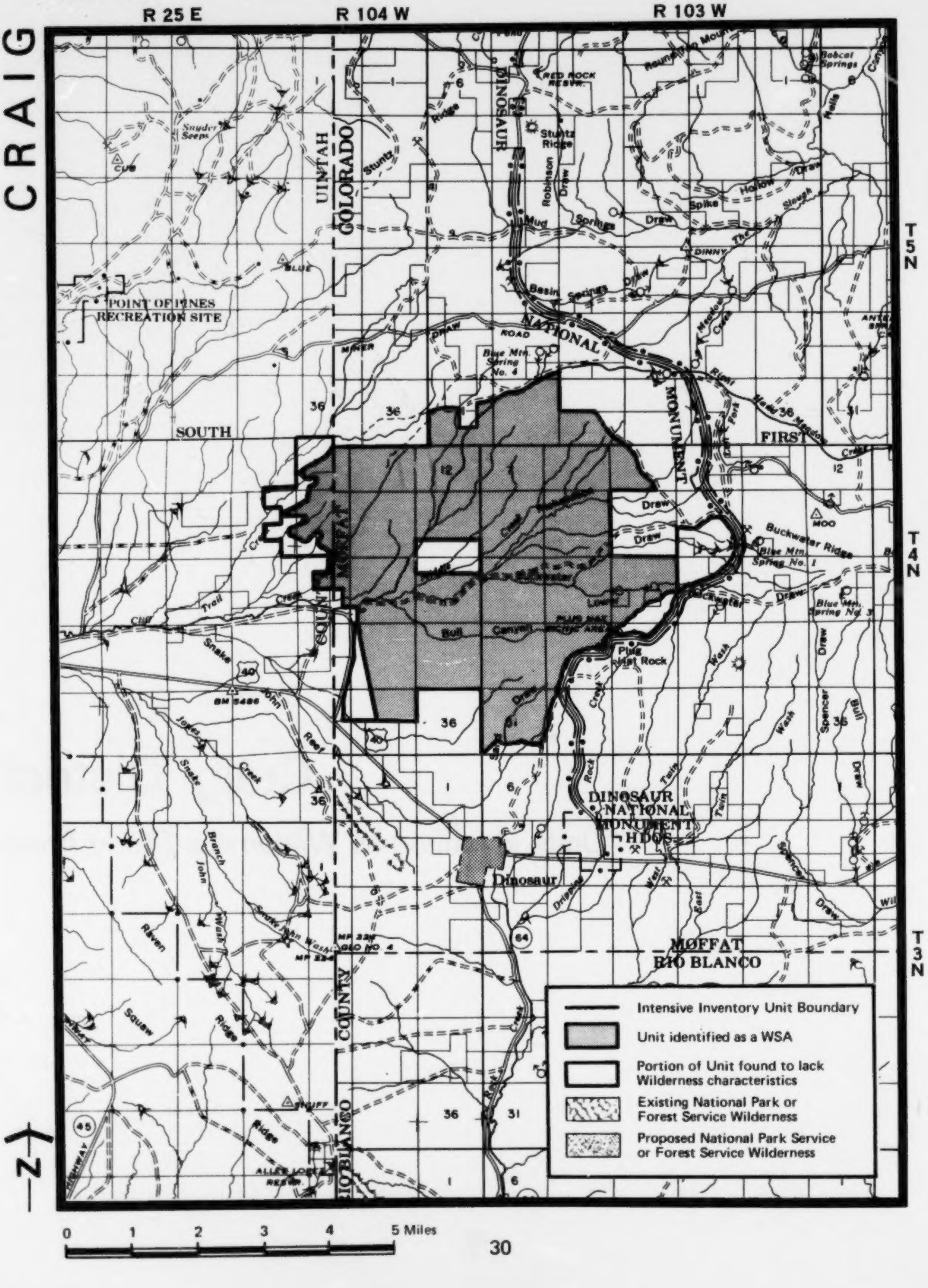
2. Appeals

If, after being informed in writing of the final intensive wilderness inventory decision, the originator of a protest to the Colorado State Director's decision remains dissatisfied, a right of appeal is provided. Appeals to the BLM State Director's final intensive wilderness inventory decision are made to the Department of the Interior Board of Land Appeals. The originator of each protest will be provided detailed information on the procedures for taking appeals to the Interior Board of Land Appeals.

Craig District

Units identified as Wilderness Study Areas

CO-010-001 Bull Canyon


R 25 E
R 104 W
R 103 W
T 5 N
T 4 N
T 3 N
UINTAH
COLORADO
MOFFAT
COUNTY
RIO BLANCO
POINT OF PINES RECREATION SITE
DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT
DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT HDQS
Dinosaur
Bull Canyon
Plug Hat Rock
Buckwater Ridge
Blue Mtn. Spring No. 1
Blue Mtn. Spring No. 3
Blue Mtn. Spring No. 4
Stuntz Ridge
Red Rock Resvr.
Bobcat Springs
Snyder Seeps
Miner Draw Road
SOUTH
FIRST
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
N
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

BULL CANYON

CO-010-001
(UT-080-419)

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: __*__ acres intensively inventoried (see inventory history)
12,297 acres proposed as WSA in 2/1/80 recommendations (11,777-CO; 520-UT)
12,297 acres identified as a WSA (11,777-CO; 520-UT)

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: _____ Yes __X__ No

GENERAL LOCATION: Along the Colorado-Utah border, north of U.S. 40 (Moffat County, Colorado; Uintah County, Utah).

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Intensive Inventory 8/78: Because this unit was in a Special Project Area, an accelerated initial/intensive inventory was completed prior to the initiation of the Bureau-wide inventory. Two units were identified: 1A - 9,310 acres and 1B - 7,750 acres.

Proposed WSA Decision 8/31/79: Forty (40) acres of private land were excluded from Unit 1A. The boundary of Unit 1B was adjusted to exclude narrow fingers of public land extending from the bulk of the unit. Following the public comment period, 9,270 acres in Unit 1A and 7,510 acres in Unit 1B were proposed for WSA status.

2/1/80: Additional intensive field study during the fall of 1979 indicated that the "road" separating Units 1A and 1B had been originally constructed in portions but was not being maintained to insure regular and continuous use. This "road" did not meet the road definition used in the BLM wilderness inventory; therefore, the units were combined for further wilderness consideration. Minor boundary adjustments were also made in Utah to exclude narrow, small pieces of public land and in Colorado to exclude a power line along the SW border. An adjusted total of 12,297 acres were proposed as a WSA. (Note: The final combined acreage for this unit is approximately 4,000 acres less than the acreages reported in the accelerated inventory for Units 1A and 1B. The minor boundary adjustments made during the final intensive inventory do not account for this difference. An electronic planimeter was used to compute the final acreage; thus, the original acreage figures were in error.)

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: The Bull Canyon unit contains approximately 12,297 acres of contiguous public land. The surrounding lands are predominantly public lands with the Dinosaur National Monument road/right-of-way located to the east. A private inholding of 320 acres exists in the Colorado portion of the unit. This private land was not inventoried for wilderness characteristics. The unit has oil and gas and grazing leases.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The Bull Canyon Unit offers a wide variety of topographic relief. The dominant features are the canyons created by eroded sandstone. Bull Canyon is the dominant landform within the unit. It is a four mile long, extensively eroded sandstone drainage which combines with K Creek, Middle Creek, Richardson Draw and Buckwater Draw to form a highly scenic canyon land area. Cottonwoods line the streambeds with pinyon-juniper the dominant vegetation in the remainder of the unit.

Imprints of Man: Minor imprints of man can be found in the form of jeep trails and a broken reservoir. These imprints do not represent significant surface disturbances. Natural revegetation is occurring which diminishes the visual impact. The bulk of the unit remains in a natural condition.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eleven comments addressed the naturalness of the unit. Seven comments generally concurred with the BLM analysis. Four comments noted the presence of jeep roads. One of these comments addressed the "road" in Buckwater Draw which the commentor said has been maintained by ranchers, hunters and local people as the natural route through the unit. The comment also identified various ranching-related roads and a network of fire roads in the southern portion of the unit.

A BLM field check in August 1979 determined that parts of the "road" in Buckwater Draw had originally been constructed in the eastern portion of the unit but was not being maintained to insure regular and continuous use. The "road" is substantially overgrown in the valley floors of the western portion. The BLM does not have any information to confirm that the various ranching roads and fire roads are receiving periodic maintenance to insure regular and continuous use. The physical impact of these ways is not considered significant due primarily to vegetative screening.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Due to the large size, blocked configuration, rugged topography and dense vegetation of the unit, the opportunities for solitude are outstanding. On the higher elevations in the unit, a visitor would be aware of wide open spaces, and have numerous vistas which can enhance a feeling of solitude. The canyons provide numerous opportunities to become isolated from others.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Twelve comments addressed these opportunities. Nine comments generally concurred with the BLM analysis. Three comments stated that the opportunities for solitude are reduced by the presence of U.S. Highway 40 south of the unit. One of these comments also noted the proximity of the town of Dinosaur and the developed overlooks along the Dinosaur National Monument access road.

The comments addressing the lack of solitude all considered sights and sounds outside the unit. BLM has not evaluated outside sights and sounds during the inventory phase unless they were determined to be extremely imposing (eg., a coal fired generating plant immediately adjacent to the unit). While these outside sights and sounds may affect solitude on the fringe of the unit, the topographic relief and vegetative screening is sufficient to provide numerous opportunities to become isolated.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE, UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: The outstanding scenery of the canyonlands, interesting geology, and big game wildlife values of the unit contribute to a variety of primitive recreational opportunities. These include hunting, hiking, photography and wildlife and scenic viewing. The cumulative effect of the recreation resources give this unit outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Seven comments addressed these opportunities. Six comments generally concurred with the BLM analysis. One comment stated the steep cliffs, rugged terrain, and private inholding severely restricted movement and would concentrate visitors along the Buckwater Draw "road." The commentor also stated the area is hot and dry in the summer.

While the Buckwater Draw "road" may serve as the primary travel route into the unit, Bull Canyon, Buckwater Draw, Richardson Draw, and several smaller drainages provide numerous opportunities to branch out into the unit in an unconfined manner. The private inholding is located in a valley bottom and could easily be avoided by traveling in the portion of the valley bottom that is public land. Lack of water and hot summer temperatures were not considered during the inventory as significant reasons to disqualify an area. While the temperatures during midsummer may make the unit somewhat undesirable, the spring and fall seasons would find pleasant temperatures for pursuing recreational activities. Water could be packed into the area.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: The Domingues/Escalante Expedition camped near the present location of K Ranch, to draw water from a flowing well and to hunt buffalo. The encampment is well documented in Escalante's diary, written in 1776.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Five comments generally concurred with the BLM analysis. One comment stated the supplemental values are nominal, not uncommon to Colorado. Supplemental values do not determine whether a unit qualifies as a WSA. While the exact location of the Escalante encampment is on the private land on the western boundary of the unit, the unit is part of the historic setting of this event.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

Natural rehabilitation is occurring within the unit resulting in the imprints of man returning to a substantially unnoticeable condition. Natural processes or hand labor would effectively rehabilitate the minor imprints of man.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Four comments addressed this issue. Two comments generally supported BLM's analysis. Two comments noted the reclamation potential was low due to lack of rainfall. Because the imprints of man remaining in the unit are not considered to be substantially noticeable, reclamation is not considered necessary. Natural processes would continue to rehabilitate the minor imprints.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

This area has long been recognized and valued for its truly outstanding scenery. The highly eroded sandstone canyons provide numerous opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The imprints of man are few in number leaving the area in a natural condition. This area is the primary focus of two scenic overlooks developed by the National Park Service on the adjacent Dinosaur National Monument road. The area meets all of the wilderness inventory criteria; therefore, it is identified as a Wilderness Study Area.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November, 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions. One comment noted the presence of grazing and oil and gas leases. Two comments noted the presence of state lands adjoining the unit and the private land within the unit.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Bull Canyon
CO 010 001

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 16

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 15
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

11	Personal Letters
	Postcards
4	Public Comments Forms
1	Meetings
	Phone Calls
	Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

15	Colorado
	Utah
1	Other

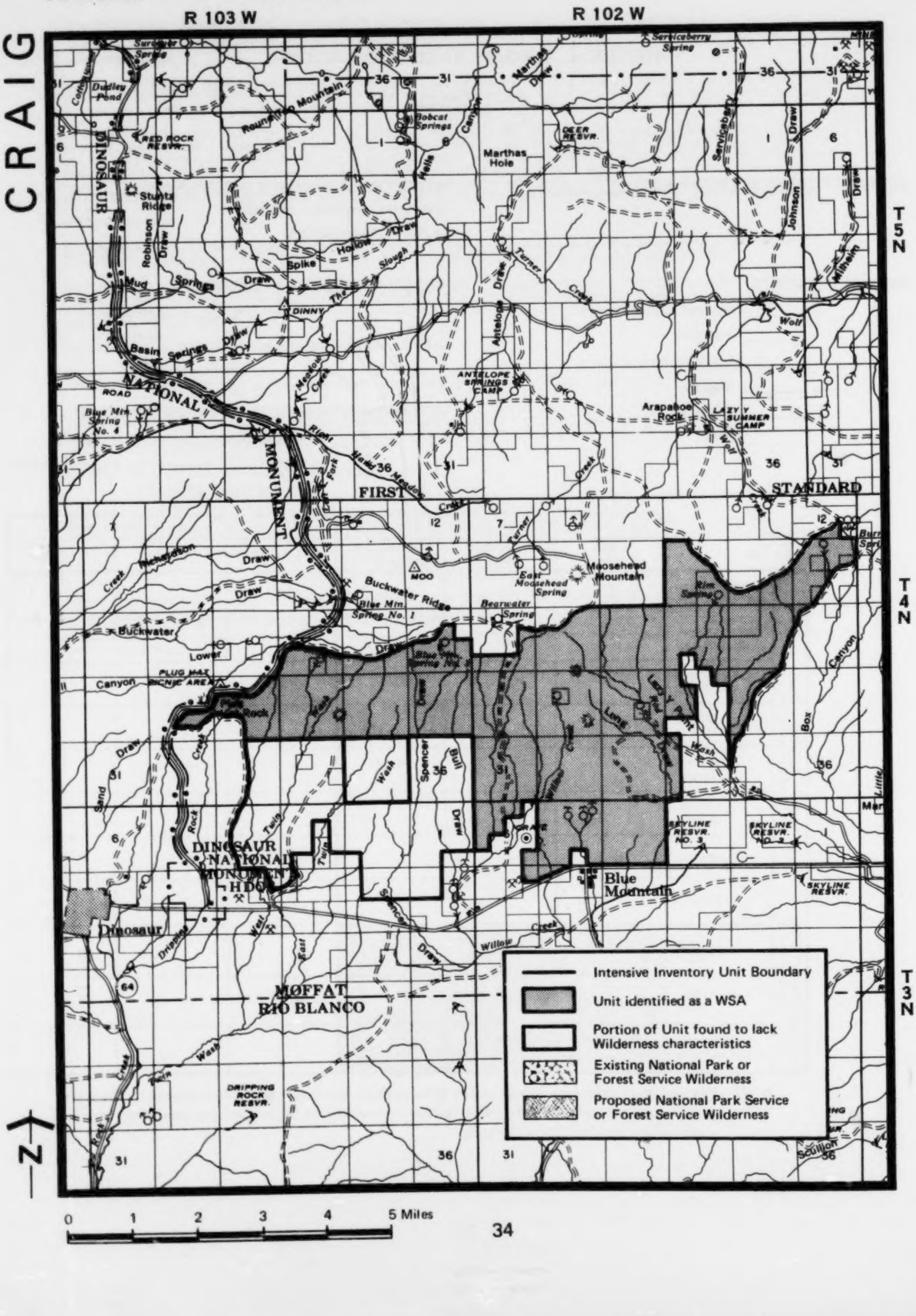
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

9	# FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
6	# AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
1	# No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	3			2		1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		2		2		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.			1	1		
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	6	4		9		1
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	8		1
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	5		1
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	1		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-010-002 Willow Creek


R 103 W
R 102 W
CRAIG
T 5 N
T 4 N
T 3 N
N
DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT
ROAD
Dudley Pond
Red Rock Resvr.
Stuntz Ridge
Robinson Draw
Mud Springs
Basin Springs Draw
Blue Mtn. Spring No. 4
Roundtop Mountain
Bobcat Springs
Spike Hollow Draw
The Slough
Dinny
Meadow Creek
Right Hand Fork
Martha's Draw
Marthas Hole
Deer Resvr.
Turner Creek
Antelope Draw
Antelope Springs Camp
Serviceberry Spring
Serviceberry Draw
Johnson Draw
Wilhelm Draw
Wolf Creek
Arapahoe Rock
Lazy Y Summer Camp
FIRST
STANDARD
Richardson Draw
Buckwater
Buckwater Ridge
Blue Mtn. Spring No. 1
Beerwater Spring
Moo
East Moosehead Spring
Moosehead Mountain
Elm Spring
Lower Canyon
Plug Hat Picnic Area
Plug Hat Rock
Box Canyon
Little Wash
Sand Draw
Rock Creek
Twin Wash
Spencer Draw
Bull Draw
Skyline Resvr. No. 3
Skyline Resvr.
Blue Mountain
Dinosaur National Monument HDQ
Dinosaur
Dripping Rock
Willow Creek
East Well
64
MOFFAT
RIO BLANCO
Twin Wash
Dripping Rock Resvr.
Scullion
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

CO-010-002
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

WILLOW CREEK

CO-010-002

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 18,080 acres intensively inventoried
14,008 acres proposed as WSA in 2/1/80 recommendations
13,368 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: X Yes ____ No

Additions ____ acres Deletions 640 acres
(as a result of public comments)

GENERAL LOCATION: Northeast of the town of Dinosaur, north of U.S. 40 (Moffat County).

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Intensive Inventory 8/78: Because this unit was in a Special Project Area, an accelerated initial/intensive inventory was completed prior to the initiation of the Bureau-wide inventory. Two units were identified: 2A - 8,400 acres and 2B - 10,920 acres.

Proposed WSA Decision 8/31/79: Additional intensive field study during the summer of 1979 indicated that the "road" separating Units 2A and 2B did not meet the definition of a road. The units were combined for further wilderness consideration. Minor boundary adjustments were also made to exclude state and private lands and to eliminate narrow fingers of public land. Following the public comment period, 18,080 acres were proposed as a WSA.

2/1/80: Additional intensive field study during the fall of 1979 determined that several imprints in the SW portion of the unit were substantially noticeable. The boundary was adjusted to exclude a system of ways relating to oil and gas exploration, ranching, and hunting. An adjusted total of 14,008 acres were proposed as a WSA.

OWNERSHIP:

The Willow Creek unit contains approximately 13,368 acres of contiguous public land. The lands surrounding the unit are predominantly public lands. The unit has grazing leases. Oil and gas leases exist. Oil and gas leasing is presently under moratorium.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The Willow Creek Unit is dominated by 1,000 foot sandstone cliffs that rise in the north of the unit and fall to the south creating a canyonland effect. The unit ranges in elevation from approximately 5,860 feet to 8,115 feet. The sandstone canyons contain many interestng geologic formations. Pinyon-juniper is the dominant vegetation with some cottonwoods in the drainages.

Imprints of Man: The unit, after boundary adjustments, appears to be natural with a few minor imprints of man in the form of ways and trails. These imprints are growing over in most instances.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eight comments addressed the naturalness of the unit. Three comments generally concurred with the BLM analysis. Five comments noted the presence of roads, seismic lines and drill holes. One of these comments provided specific information on the location of roads, drill pads, and a burned area. The comment stated the "road" that originally divided this unit into two units (see inventory history) has been used and maintained for many years. The commentor also identified Sec. 35, T. 4N., R. 103W. as a protrusion from the unit containing a road utilized by ranchers and recreationists and two drill pads.

A field check by BLM in August 1979 determined that while the road that had originally been identified as a boundary between Units 2A and 2B was constructed and maintained at one time, it is not being maintained at the present time and is in an unusable condition. Based upon the information provided concerning Sec. 35, T. 4N., R. 103W. the boundary has been adjusted to exclude a formerly maintained road and two abandoned drill pads. If the boundary had to be drawn to exclude just the imprints, a narrow piece of public land extending from the unit would have remained; therefore, the entire section was deleted. BLM recognizes the presence of the other "roads" identified by the commenter but does not have information to conclude that they are being maintained to insure regular and continuous use; therefore, they are classified as "ways." Their impact on the unit's naturalness is not considered significant due mainly to topgraphic and vegetative screening. The burned area commented upon is considered part of the natural appearance of an area where fire plays a natural role in the ecosystem.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: The relatively large size of the unit gives individuals room to disperse themselves. The highly dissected terrain provides ample topographic screening and would enable visitors to isolate themselves from others in the unit. Numerous vistas also enhance a feeling of solitude. Taken cumulatively, the opportunities for solitude are outstanding.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eight comments addressed these opportunities. Five comments generally concurred with the BLM analysis. Three comments stated that the opportunities for solitude are reduced by the presence of U.S. Highway 40 south of the unit. One of these comments noted the proximity of the town of Blue Mountain and the Plug Hat overlook along the Dinosaur National Monument access road. This comment also stated the configuration of the unit is linear with protrusions that would limit the opportunities for solitude. A lack of vegetation in the northern portion of the unit was also noted.

The comments addressing the lack of solitude all considered sights and sounds outside the unit. BLM has not evaluated outside sights and sounds during the inventory phase unless they were determined to be extremely imposing (e.g., a coal fired generating plant immediately adjacent to the unit). While these outside sights and sounds may affect solitude on the fringe of the unit, the canyons, the hogbacks along U.S. 40, and the vegetative screening are sufficient to provide numerous opportunities to become isolated. While vegetative screening may be lacking in the very northern portion of the unit at the top of the cliffs, this area does provide opportunities for viewing great distances. The configuration of this unit does appear somewhat elongated on the map, but the unit boundaries include a continuous landform with numerous opportunities for solitude; therefore, the unit is considered to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. As discussed under naturalness, the boundary was adjusted to exclude imprints of man and a resulting narrow piece of public land extending from the bulk of the unit.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE, UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: The outstanding scenery, unusual geology and big-game wildlife values of the unit contribute to a variety of primitive and unconfined recreational opportunities. These include hunting, hiking, photography, and scenic and wildlife viewing. The cumulative effect of these resources give the unit outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Six comments addressed these opportunities. Four comments generally concurred with the BLM analysis. Two comments noted the lack of water and hot temperatures. One of these stated that only hunters had been observed using the area. The other comment stated that the cliffs and rugged terrain constrain freedom of movement and the range of activities.

The rugged terrain and steep cliffs would provide some obstacles to east-west movement especially in the western portion of the unit. There are, however, opportunities to move in a north-south direction throughout the unit and visitors could move in an east-west direction along the top of the cliffs in the northern portion as well as in the eastern portion. These units were evaluated on their potential for recreation activities and not on their current or observed use. While the temperatures during mid-summer may make the unit somewhat undesirable, the spring and fall seasons would find pleasant temperatures for pursuing recreational activities. Water could easily be packed into the unit. Visitors would have to plan for the availability of water.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: Twelve fossil-bearing formations exist in this unit. Significant prehistoric information may be found in these formations that are the same as those currently being studied with such success in Dinosaur National Monument. This area has been studied by a research group from the University of Arizona which has confirmed that the pinyon trees are the oldest of their kind in North America. While little has been done in the way of cultural studies of this area, it is suspected that much information may exist in the form of artifacts to shed new light on the Fremont-age Indians. Dense lithic material, granaries and petrographs exist in sufficient numbers to implicate this.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Six comments addressed supplemental values. Five comments generally concurred with the BLM analysis. One comment stated that geologic formations and Indian artifacts are common in Colorado. The presence of supplemental values is considered an added feature which enhances a unit's status as a WSA but does not determine whether a unit qualifies for further study. The extent and uniqueness of such values will be addressed in the study phase.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

As noted under Naturalness, the boundary was adjusted to exclude a formerly maintained road and two abandoned drill pads. During construction, much of the topsoil was removed, hindering natural rehabilitation. A major effort including the use of machinery would be required to return these imprints to a substantially unnoticeable condition.

Natural rehabilitation is occurring within the remaining unit resulting in the imprint of man returning to a substantially unnoticeable condition. Natural processes or hand labor would effectively rehabilitate the minor imprints of man.

Evaluation of Public Comment: Two comments addressed this issue. One comment concurred with the BLM analysis. The other comment stated the reclamation potential is low due to lack of rainfall. Because the imprints remaining in the unit are not considered to be substantially noticeable, artificial reclamation is not considered necessary. Natural processes would continue to rehabilitate the minor imprints.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The Willow Creek Unit is a large tract of undeveloped public land retaining much of its natural character. The eroded sandstone cliffs, rock formations and pinyon-juniper forests offer outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive recreation. The area has been recognized in the BLM planning system for its outstanding scenic, cultural, and recreation resources. The unit meets the criteria for wilderness study.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

One comment noted that the geologic conditions are favorable for the existence of an oil reserve. Two comments noted the presence of state and private lands adjoining the unit making access difficult.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Willow Creek

CO 010 002

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 15

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 18
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

13 Personal Letters
____ Postcards
2 Public Comments Forms
____ Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

13 Colorado
____ Utah
2 Other

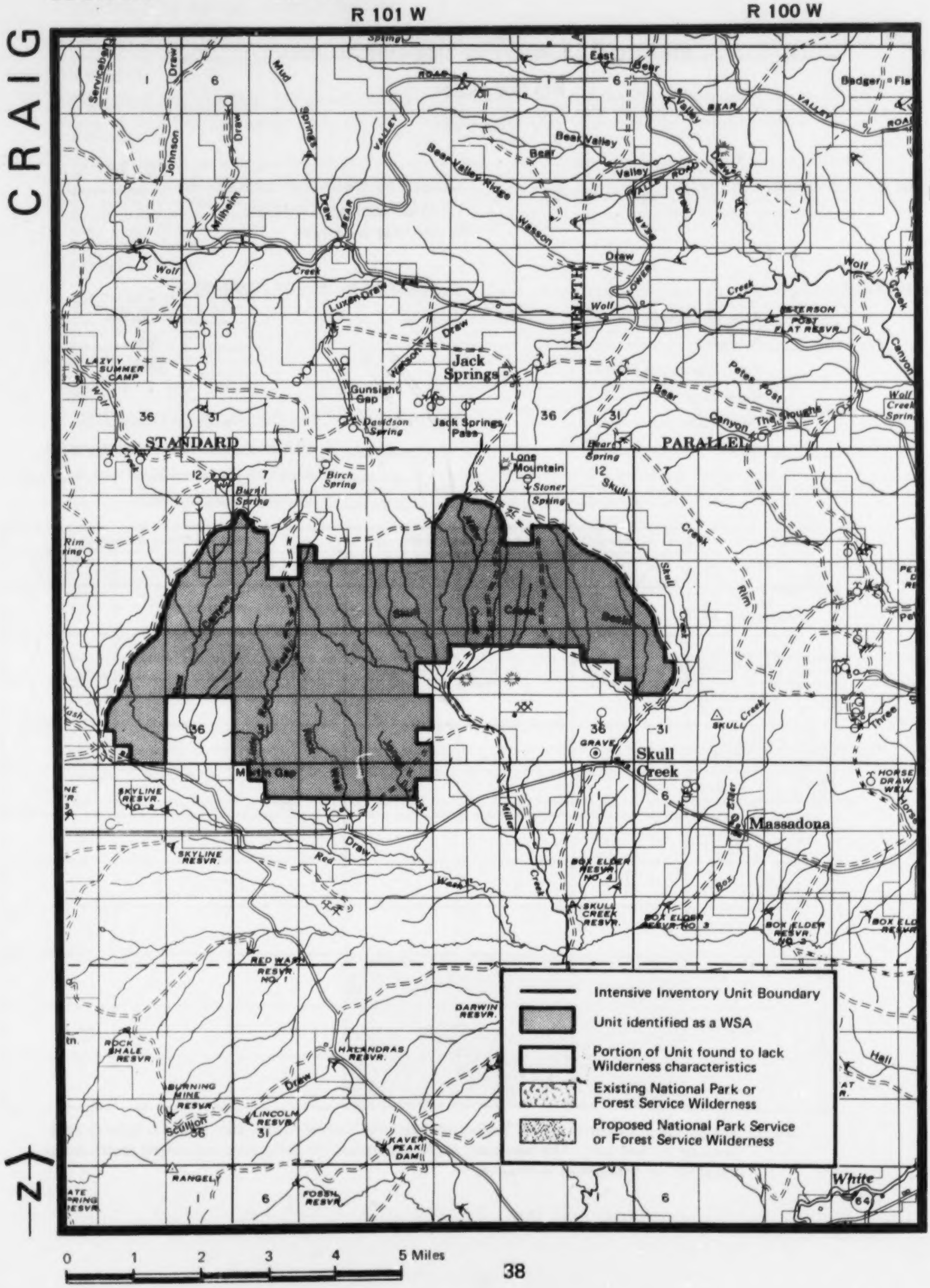
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

7 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
7 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	2			1		1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		4		4		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.			1	1		
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	5	3		7		1
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	5		2
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	7		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	1		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-010-003 Skull Creek


R 101 W
R 100 W
CRAIG
T 5 N
T 4 N
T 3 N
N
Bear Valley
Bear Valley Ridge
Wolf Creek
Jack Springs
Gunsight Gap
Davidson Spring
Jack Springs Pass
Lone Mountain
Stoner Spring
Bear Spring
Birch Spring
Lazy Y Summer Camp
STANDARD
PARALLEL
Skull Creek
Massadona
Martin Gap
Skyline Resvr. No. 2
Skyline Resvr.
Red Wash
Box Elder Resvr. No. 4
Skull Creek Resvr.
Box Elder Resvr. No. 3
Red Wash Resvr. No. 1
Darwin Resvr.
Rock Shale Resvr.
Halandras Resvr.
Burning Mine Resvr.
Lincoln Resvr.
Kaver Peak Dam
Rangely
Fossil Resvr.
Scullion
Peterson Post Flat Resvr.
Petes Post
The Slough
Horse Draw Well
Grave
White
64
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

CO-010-003
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

SKULL CREEK

CO-010-003

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 13,740 acres intensively inventoried
13,740 acres proposed as WSA in 2/1/80 recommendations
13,740 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____ Yes X No

GENERAL LOCATION: Approximately 10 miles east of the town of Dinosaur, north of U.S. 40 (Moffat County).

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Intensive Inventory 8/78: Because this unit was in a Special Project Area, an accelerated initial/intensive inventory was completed prior to the initiation of the Bureau-wide inventory. A unit containing 13,500 acres was identified.

Proposed WSA Decision 8/31/79: Minor boundary adjustments were made to exclude narrow pieces of public land extending from the bulk of the unit. Following the public comment period, 13,000 acres were proposed as a WSA.

2/1/80: Additional intensive field study during the fall of 1979 indicated that no further boundary adjustments were needed. The recalculation of the acreage using an electronic planimeter resulted in a final acreage of 13,740 acres proposed as a WSA.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: The Skull Creek Unit contains approximately 13,740 acres of contiguous public land. The lands surrounding the unit are predominantly private and state owned. Grazing is authorized in the unit. Oil and gas leases exist but additional leasing is presently under moratorium.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The Skull Creek Basin is a breached anticline of the Juniper Plateau. The terrain is steep and rugged ranging from 5,920 feet to 7,112 feet creating a canyonland effect. The Skull Creek rim is north and east of this unit. Pinyon-juniper is the dominant vegetation.

Imprints of Man: Traces of man's imprints can be found including jeep trails and an abandoned drill pad. These imprints are either growing over or well screened so the cumulative effect is minor. The remainder of the unit remains in a natural condition.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eleven comments addressed the naturalness of the unit. Six comments generally concurred with the BLM analysis. Five comments noted the presence of various roads and trails and drill pads. One comment provided specific locations for these imprints. This comment and one other made reference to the use of these roads by ranchers and others. These comments stated that these roads (the two in the eastern portion in particular) are maintained as needed including the use of machinery. One comment also noted that mining operations were conducted on or near the western boundary.

BLM conducted a field check of this unit in the Fall of 1979. Based upon information available to BLM and physical evidence in the field, it was determined that the above mentioned "roads" were being maintained mainly through the passage of vehicles. There was no evidence to confirm periodic maintenance by hand tools or machinery; thus, these "roads" have been classified as "ways." The physical impact of these ways on the unit's naturalness is not considered significant due to topographic and vegetative screening. Of the two drill pads mentioned, the one to the north of the unit was excluded during the initial inventory (August 1979) due to its impact on naturalness. The other drill pad located in the very southwestern corner of the unit does not have a significant impact on naturalness due to vegetative screening. BLM did not find any significant imprints resulting from the above mentioned mining operation and was unable to confirm that it even took place inside the unit boundaries.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: The relatively large size of the unit gives individuals room to disperse themselves. The rugged canyonland terrain of the Basin and the dense vegetation would enable visitors to isolate themselves from others in the unit. Taken cumulatively, the opportunities for experiencing a feeling of solitude are outstanding.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eleven comments addressed these opportunities. Seven of these comments generally concurred with the BLM analysis. Four of the comments stated the opportunities were not outstanding. Three of these made reference to outside sights and sounds, in particular U.S. Highway 40 to the south of the unit. One of these comments also stated the configuration of the unit limits the opportunities, that visitors on the predominantly south facing slopes would be visible outside the unit, and the spatial solitude (viewing of vast distances) is better outside the unit.

BLM did not evaluate outside sights and sounds during the inventory phase unless they were determined to be extremely imposing (e.g., a coal fired generating plant immediately adjacent to the unit). While these outside sights and sounds may affect solitude on the fringe of the unit, the topographic relief, the vegetative screening, and the hogbacks which shield the unit from U.S. 40 are sufficient to provide numerous opportunities to become isolated from others. While the unit may appear somewhat elongated on the map, the unit does contain the bulk of the Skull Creek Basin with its numerous drainages and dense pinyon-juniper vegetation on the intervening ridges. While opportunities for spatial solitude may be better outside the unit (i.e., the Skull Creek Rim), the opportunities to become isolated in the unit are numerous enough to be considered outstanding.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE, UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: The outstanding scenery, geologic rock formations and variety of big game wildlife in this unit contribute to a variety of outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The opportunities include hunting, hiking, photography, and scenic and wildlife viewing.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eight comments addressed these opportunities. Five comments generally concurred with the BLM analysis. Three comments stated that the opportunities were limited. One of these comments noted the near-surface presence of radioactive materials, the restrictions on freedom of movement imposed by the rugged terrain and configuration and that scenic viewing is better outside the unit. The other comment stated that only hunters had been observed using the area. Both of these comments noted the lack of water and hot summer temperatures.

The presence of potential dangers to public safety will be considered in the study phase. While the topography and configuration of the unit may tend to direct movement into the draws and canyons, the large number of drainages throughout the Skull Creek Basin would provide numerous opportunities to pursue recreational activities throughout the unit. It may also be true that scenic viewing is more outstanding in places outside the unit, but the visual setting of the unit in combination with the variety of activities that could take place do provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. BLM did not evaluate the current or observed use of an area in determining the recreation opportunities, but rather the potential for recreation activities to occur. Lack of water and hot summer temperatures were not considered during the inventory as significant reasons to disqualify an area. While the temperatures during mid-summer may make the unit somewhat undesirable the spring and fall seasons would find pleasant temperatures for pursuing recreational activities. Water could eaily be packed into the area. Visitors to the area would have to plan for the availability of water.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: Twelve fossil-bearing formations exist in this unit. Significant prehistoric information may be found in these formations that are the same as those currently being studied, with such success, in Dinosaur National Monument. While little has been done in the way of cultural studies of this area, it is suspected that much information may exist, in the form of artifacts, to shed new light on the Fremont age people. Dense lithic material, granaries, and petrographs exist in sufficient numbers to implicate this.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Nine comments addressed supplemental values. Eight comments generally concurred with the BLM analysis. One comment stated the geologic formations and Indian artifacts are not unusual to Colorado. Supplemental values do not determine whether a unit qualifies as a WSA. The extent and uniqueness of such values will be evaluated in the study phase.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

Natural rehabilitation is occurring within the unit resulting in the imprint of man's returning to a substantially unnoticeable condition. Natural processes or hand labor would effectively rehabilitate the minor imprints of man.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Six comments addressed this issue. Four generally concurred with the BLM analysis. Two comments stated that because of the low amount of rainfall considerable time and effort would be required to rehabilitate the imprints. Because the imprints of man remaining in the unit are not considered to be substantially noticeable, major reclamation activity is not considered necessary.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The Skull Creek Unit is a large tract of undeveloped public land retaining much of its natural character. The eroded sandstone basin with its canyons and pinyon-juniper forests offer outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive recreation. The area has been recognized in the BLM planning system for its outstanding scenic, cultural and recreation resources. The unit meets the criteria for wilderness study.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

Three comments addressed potential mineral (oil and gas and other minerals) resources of the area, and three comments noted the presence of private and state lands bordering the unit and the related access problems.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Skull Creek
CO 010 003

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 20

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 23
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:
14 Personal Letters
____ Postcards
5 Public Comments Forms
1 Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

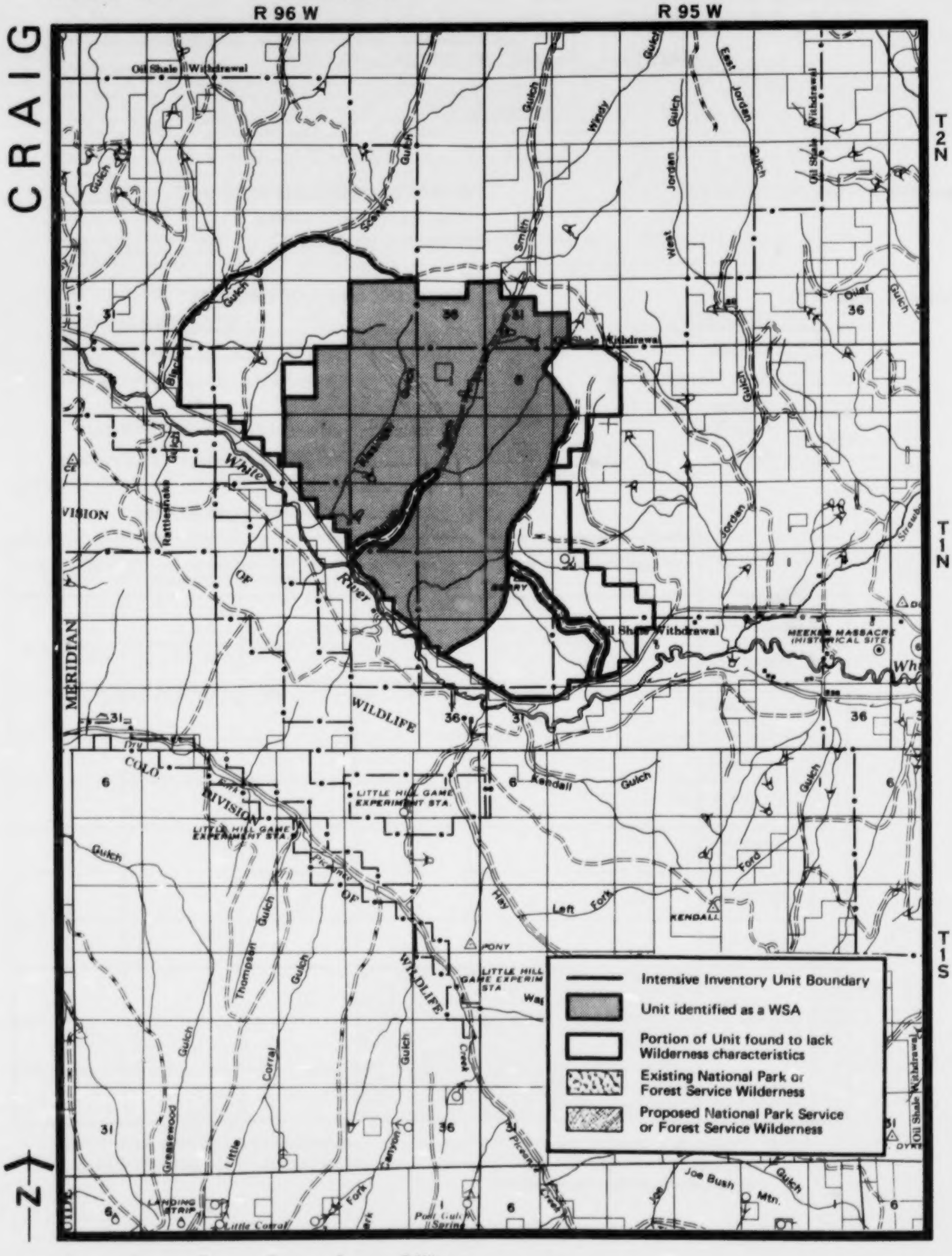
GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:
11 Colorado
8 Utah
1 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:
____ # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
____ # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
____ # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	3			2		1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		5		4		1
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.			1	1		
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	8	3		10		1
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	10		1
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	7		1
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨			1

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-010-007A Black Mountain


R 96 W
R 95 W
CRAIG
T 2 N
T 1 N
T 1 S
N
Oil Shale Withdrawal
White River
MERIDIAN
COLO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
LITTLE HILL GAME EXPERIMENT STA.
MEEKER MASSACRE (HISTORICAL SITE)
KENDALL
PONY
Kendall Gulch
Left Fork
Jordan Gulch
East Jordan Gulch
West Jordan Gulch
Windy Gulch
Smith Gulch
Rattlesnake Gulch
Thompson Gulch
Greasewood Gulch
Little Corral Gulch
Canyon Gulch
Joe Bush Gulch
Piceance Creek
LANDING STRIP
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

CO-010-007A
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

BLACK MOUNTAIN

CO-010-007A

(Berry Point)
(CO-010-007B)

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit 7A - Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area; Unit 7B - Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): A unit containing acreage from both Units 7A and 7B does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 16,134 acres intensively inventoried (7,455 - Unit 7A; 8,679 - Unit 7B)
5,077 acres proposed as WSA in 2/1/80 recommendations (all in Unit 7A)
9,932 acres identified as a WSA (5,077 from Unit 7A; 4,855 from Unit 7B)

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: X Yes ____ No

Additions 4,855 acres Deletions ____ acres
(as a result of public comments)

Inventory Units CO-010-007A and CO-010-007B have been combined into one unit to be identified as Unit CO-010-007A, Black Mountain. The remainder of Unit 7B not included in the combined unit is less than 5,000 acres (approximately 4,335 acres) and does not qualify for wilderness study.

GENERAL LOCATION: West of Meeker (Rio Blanco County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Intensive Inventory 8/78: Because these units were in a Special Project Area, an accelerated initial/intensive inventory was completed prior to the initiation of the Bureau-wide inventory. Two units containing 16,705 (7,455-Unit 7A; 9,250-Unit 7B) acres were identified.

Proposed WSA Decision 8/31/79: Following the public comment period, 7,455 acres in Unit 7A and 9,250 acres in Unit 7B were proposed as WSA's. The acreage for Unit 7B was recalculated and determined to be 8,679 acres.

2/1/80: Additional intensive field study during the summer of 1979 indicated that the NW portion of Unit 7A contained several imprints of man. The boundary of the unit was adjusted to exclude a system of ways, a pipeline, and a powerline. An adjusted total of 5,077 acres in Unit 7A were proposed as a WSA. During the same time, Unit 7B was re-evaluated. The boundary was adjusted to exclude a maintained road to Berry Point. It was also determined that the unit did not meet the criteria of naturalness and outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation; therefore, 0 acres in Unit 7B were proposed as a WSA.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: The Black Mountain unit contains approximately 9,932 acres of contiguous public land. The western boundary adjustment excluded 160 acres of private land that had previously been an inholding in the unit. Surrounding lands are private to the south along the White River with public lands to the north, east and west. The unit has one grazing lease and numerous oil and gas leases.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: Black Mountain, a high ridge running the length of the unit, dominates the western portion of the area. The highest point on Black Mountain is 7205'. Black mountain provides numerous vistas of the surrounding landscape including the White River Valley. Numerous drainages create rugged slopes on all sides of Black Mountain. Kissinger Gulch penetrates Black Mountain essentially cutting into two ridges. Smith Gulch and its side drainages dominate the central and eastern portions of the unit. East of Smith Gulch the unit contains the rugged western slopes of Berry Point. Vegetation is primarily pinyon-juniper on the ridge tops and slopes with sagebrush and grasses in the draws. Mountain brush is scattered along the ridge tops.

Imprints of Man: The imprints of man remaining in the unit after boundary adjustments are substantially unnoticeable. They include three remnants of reservoirs in Kissinger Gulch that were constructed over 20 years ago. The reservoirs are not being maintained and are growing over. The upper end of Smith gulch and its major eastern side drainage contains ways that are used primarily as cattle trails (see below).

Evaluation of Public Comments: Thirteen comments addressed the naturalness of the unit. Five comments generally concurred with the BLM analysis regarding the naturalness of Unit 7A. Two of these comments stated that the documentation of the way in Smith Gulch was not sufficient to demonstrate that it was a significant imprint of man and an appropriate boundary beween Units 7A and 7B. BLM conducted a field check of Smith Gulch and determined that there was a road in the lower end of Smith Gulch and a way in the northern end. The road in the lower end showed evidence of periodic maintenance by hunters and others. In the upper end of Smith Gulch, the way showed no evidence of periodic maintenance and appeared to be used primarily as a cattle trail. This way does not represent a significant imprint of man due to lack of use and topographic screening. Because the way in Smith Gulch was not a valid continuous boundary, Unit 7A has been expanded to include portions of the adjoining Unit 7B that are natural. Unit 7A now extends east up to the ridge tops along Berry Point where significant imprints of man form the new eastern boundary of the unit. These imprints are ways that were originally constructed with heavy equipment resulting in the removal of topsoil which has slowed natural revegetation. Heavy use by vehicles during hunting season further impedes the rehabilitation. Several of the ways follow ridge tops and have been cut through the pinyon-juniper leaving visual contrasts along much of Berry Point. The road in the lower portion of Smith Gulch has been "cherry-stemmed" from the unit.

Eight comments stated that parts of the unit are not natural. One of these comments noted that two of the reservoirs display visually contrasting lines and form. The comment also noted the presence of a canal connecting two of the reservoirs. The comment stated that erosion is enlarging the canal's scar. Litter was cited as being found along stream banks and most bottom areas appear to be overgrazed. Finally, the comment noted that the unit had been burned in the southern portion and that a network of ways is located on a ridgetop in the very southern portion of the unit. The other seven comments stated that roads, reservoirs, and other imprints were present but provided no specific information.

The intensive inventory determined that the reservoirs did not represent significant imprints mainly due to lack of maintenance and natural revegetation. BLM did not find the canal referred to in the public comment. Litter is an imprint that can easily be removed through hand labor. Determination of overgrazing is not addressed in the wilderness inventory. Semi-arid country can appear to be overgrazed when in fact it is not. Grazing is considered through BLM's range management program. Burned areas are considered to be a natural part of the appearance of areas where fire plays a role in the ecosystem. The ways in the extreme southern portion of the unit are not significant due to topographic and vegetative screening.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Black Mountain, Kissinger Gulch and Smith Gulch and several side drainages provide numerous opportunities to experience solitude. The high ridge tops provide vistas which can enhance a feeling of solitude. The numerous steep sided drainages and dense vegetation enable visitors to isolate themselves from others while in the unit. The expanded size of the unit along with the highly dissected terrain and dense vegetation give this unit ample screening potential resulting in outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Fourteen comments addressed these opportunities. Six comments generally concurred with the BLM analysis. Two of these comments stated that if the unit were expanded into Unit 7B the opportunity to experience solitude would be increased. As discussed under naturalness, the unit has been expanded.

Eight comments stated that outstanding opportunities are not present. Three of these comments noted current grazing and other four-wheel vehicle activity as detracting from the opportunities for solitude. Three other comments cited noise from Highway 64 along the southern boundary and uses of adjoining lands as intrusive on solitude. These comments recommended that the southern portion of the unit be deleted because of the highway. Finally, one comment stated that the size of the unit would not permit sustained, uninterrupted opportunities.

Grazing is an allowable use of designated wilderness areas; therefore, dispersed grazing is not evaluated as an impairment on solitude. Solitude is evaluated on the physical characteristics of the land and not on current activities such as off-road vehicle driving which may be restricted should the area be designated wilderness. BLM has not evaluated sounds outside the unit unless they were determined to be extremely imposing (e.g., a coal fired generating plant immediately adjacent to the unit). Boundaries were drawn along major imprints of man, roads, and property boundaries. During the study phase, the boundaries may be re-drawn to exclude the effects of encroaching activities. As discussed under naturalness, the unit has been expanded; therefore, there is ample opportunity to become isolated while in the unit.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE, UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Historically, big game hunting (primarily mule deer) has been the major recreational activity in the unit. Hunting and associated activities (camping, hiking, etc.) would continue to be the major primitive recreational opportunity in the unit. There are no supplemental values or other features which enhance the recreational opportunities or make them unique in a regional context. While opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation do exist, they are not considered to be outstanding.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Twelve comments addressed these opportunities. Two comments stated that the opportunities would be outstanding if the unit were expanded. One of these comments also said that regional comparisons and the aridity of the climate should not be used in evaluating the recreation opportunities. As discussed under naturalness, the unit was expanded to include an additional 4,915 acres. This would increase the area available to pursue recreational activities. While the BLM inventory procedures do not permit comparisons among inventory units, consideration of the unit's recreation opportunities in a regional context is allowable. There were no specific comments received that would change the BLM evaluation that hunting is the primary recreation opportunity in this unit and that overall the unit does not offer outstanding oppotunities for primitive recreation.

Ten comments stated that outstanding opportunities are not present. Three comments cited the presence of cattle as detracting from the recreation opportunities. Two of these comments also stated that encounters with four-wheel drive vehicles would impair recreation opportunities. Two comments cited the lack of water and hot temperatures in the summer. Four comments noted the presence of Highway 64 along the southern boundary and uses on adjoining private lands. See the discussion under solitude for a response to these issues.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit's close proximity to Meeker and Rangely makes it accessible to population centers of northwest Colorado.

Evaluation of Public Comment: Four comments addressed supplemental values. Two comments noted the presence of wildlife. One of these also cited the proximity of population centers. A third comment noted the presence of known fossil vertebrate resources but provided no specific information. The fourth comment stated the unit was not spectacular.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

Revegetation of the three reservoirs is occurring naturally. No active rehabilitation would be necessary.

Evaluation of Public Comment: Four comments addressed this issue. Two generally concurred with the BLM analysis. One comment stated that soil and vegetation types would make rehabilitation doubtful. Another comment noted the aridity of the climate as a hindrance to natural reclamation.

After boundary adjustments, only minor imprints of man remain in the unit. Natural processes would continue to reduce any visual contrasts resulting from these imprints.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The varied topography, dominated by Black Mountain, and dense vegetation provide outstanding opportunities to experience solitude in a natural setting. While opportunities for primitive recreation do exist, they are limited in extent and variety. However, the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation considered together do offer visitors the potential for a wilderness experience. Overall, the unit meets the criteria required for wilderness study.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land use decisions.

Two comments stated that the oil and gas lessees would be unable to exercise their lease rights. These comments also stated that coal underlies the unit and that an oil shale withdrawal covers part of the unit. Two comments expressed concern over negative effects the area might have on oil shale development in the Piceance Basin. Two comments stated that the grazing permittees would be denied the use of motorized equipment resulting in hardship on the livestock operations. Two comments stated that access to the unit is mostly over private lands. Finally, four comments expressed concerns with air quality designation and oil shale development in the Piceance Basin.

All of these issues will be considered and evaluated during the study phase in determining the area's suitability as a wilderness area. During the study phase, existing uses will be allowed to continue. This includes use of motorized vehicles on existing ways and certain activities on oil and gas leases. BLM will continue to manage WSA's as CLass II air quality classification. The Department of the Interior will *not* recommend reclassification to the more restrictive CLass I in connection with future wilderness recommendations resulting from the study phase. Further information on these issues is available in the BLM document entitled *Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review*, available at any BLM office.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Black Mountain
CO 010 007A

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 24

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 46
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:
13 Personal Letters
____ Postcards
6 Public Comments Forms
5 Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:
22 Colorado
____ Utah
2 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:
10 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
12 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
2 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	5			4		1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		6	2	8		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	5	6		10		1
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	8		2
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	12		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	2		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Berry Point
CO 010 007B

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 20

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 24
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

13 Personal Letters
Postcards
2 Public Comments Forms
2 Meetings
3 Phone Calls
Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

17 Colorado
Utah
3 Other

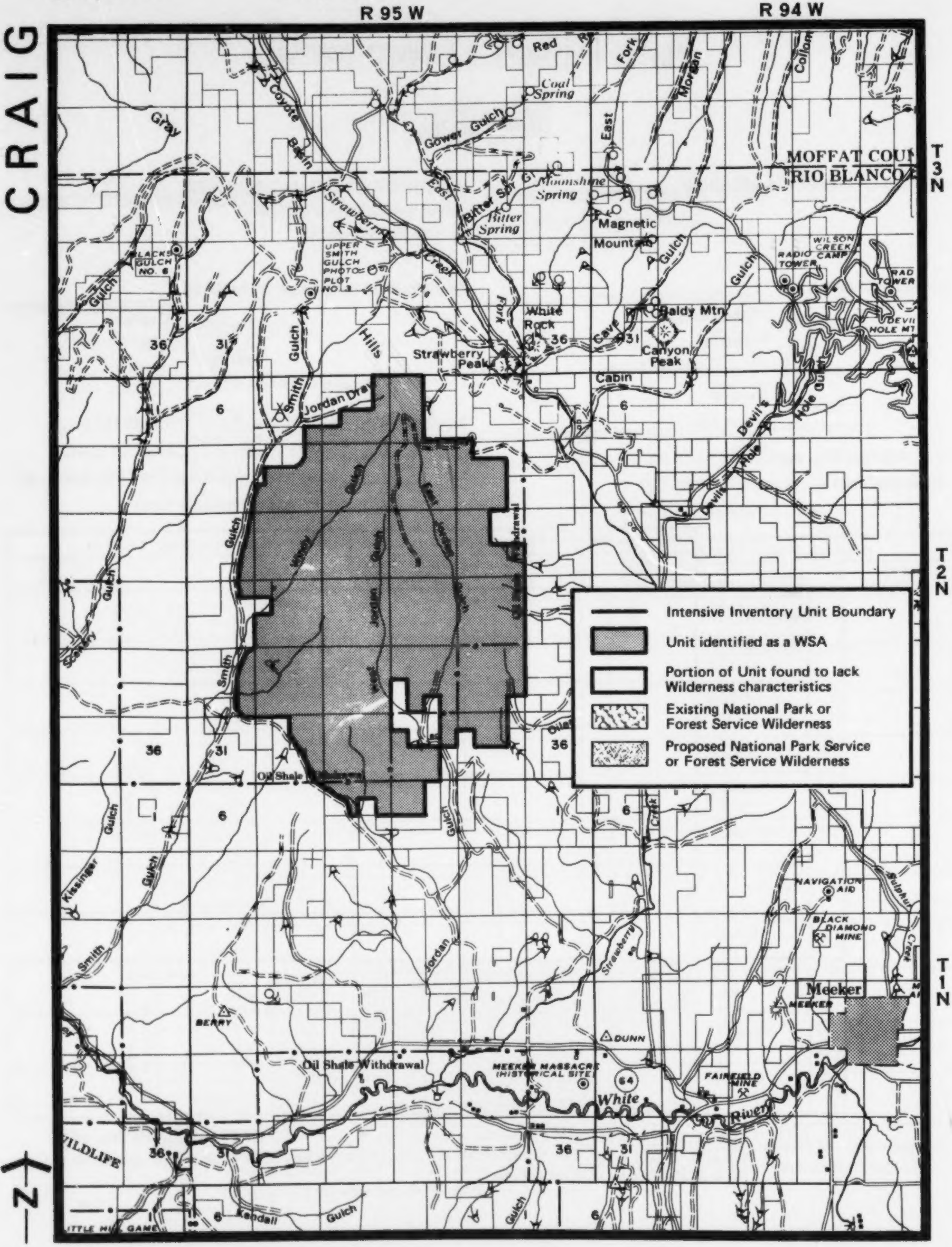
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

8 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
11 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	4			3		1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		3	1	4		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	4	8		10		2
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	5		3
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	11		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	1		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-010-007C Windy Gulch


R 95 W
R 94 W
CRAIG
T 3 N
T 2 N
T 1 N
MOFFAT COUN
RIO BLANCO
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
Coal Spring
Moonshine Spring
Bitter Spring
Gower Gulch
Coyote Basin
Strawberry Creek
Magnetic Mountain
White Rock
Strawberry Peak
Baldy Mtn
Canyon Peak
Cabin
Devil's Hole Gulch
Wilson Creek Camp
Radio Tower
Upper Smith Gulch Photo Plot No. 1
Blacks Gulch No. 6
Jordan Draw
Smith Gulch
Windy Gulch
Jordan Gulch
Oil Shale Withdrawal
Kissinger Gulch
Navigation Aid
Black Diamond Mine
Meeker
Berry
Dunn
Meeker Massacre (Historical Site)
Fairfield Mine
White River
64
Kendall Gulch
Little Hill Game
Wildlife
N
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

WINDY GULCH

CO-010-007C

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 14,085 acres intensively inventoried (see inventory history)
12,274 acres proposed as WSA in 2/1/80 recommendations
12,274 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: _____ Yes X No

GENERAL LOCATION: Northwest of Meeker (Rio Blanco County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Intensive Inventory 8/78: Because this unit was in a Special Project Area, an accelerated initial/intensive inventory was completed prior to the initiation of the Bureau-wide inventory. A unit containing 14,085 acres was identified.

Proposed WSA Decision 8/31/79: Minor boundary adjustments were made to exclude narrow pieces of public land extending from the bulk of the unit. Following the public comment period, 12,565 acres were proposed as a WSA.

2/1/80: Additional intensive field study during the summer of 1979 indicated that no futher boundary adjustments were needed. The final acreage was calculated using an electronic planimeter resulting in 12,274 acres being proposed as a WSA.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: The Windy Gulch unit contains approximately 12,274 acres of contiguous public land. The surrounding lands are private to the east, south, and north with public land to the west. This unit is separated from Inventory Unit 7B to the southwest by a pipeline corridor. The unit has grazing and oil and gas leases.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The Windy Gulch unit offers a variety of topography and vegetation. The unit is characterized by rolling to moderately steep hills with numerous ridges and draws. Elevation ranges from 6,400' in the south to over 8,000' in the north. The high ridges provide vistas of the surrounding landscape including the White River Valley to the east. Dense vegetation in the form of pinyon-juniper, Douglas fir, and scrub oak occurs on the ridges and slopes. The draws are more open, with the dominant vegetation being grasses and sagebrush.

Imprints of Man: Minor imprints of man associated with grazing are scattered throughout the unit. These imprints, mostly trails and ways, are few and do not represent major surface or vegetative disturbances. They receive only occasional use, so their visual contrast is slight.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Thirteen comments addressed the naturalness of the unit. Three comments generally concurred with the BLM analysis. Ten comments stated that the unit does not meet the naturalness criteria due to the presence of roads and ways, pipelines and range improvements. Three comments stated that a well-travelled road in the northern portion of the unit would never return to a natural condition. One of these comments cited a series of switchbacks scarring the mountainside. Two of these comments also noted that the road up Smith Gulch encroaches on the western boundary of the unit. One of the comments also noted the presence of a network of ways used by ranchers and hunters. Another comment stated that because the unit has oil and gas leases, evidence of exploration activities is undoubtedly present. No specific information was given.

There are no pipelines in this unit. A pipeline is located immediately south of the unit. Based on information available to BLM, the "well travelled road" in the northern portion of the unit and the other way identified in the unit are maintained through the passage of vehicles and not by machinery or hand tools; thus, these two wheel tracks are classified as "ways." The switchbacks are along the northeastern facing slopes along the northern boundary of the unit. Because of topographic and vegetative screening, these ways and the range improvements are not considered to significantly impact the overall natural appearance of the unit. The Smith Gulch road is outside the unit; therefore, it does not impact the unit's naturalness. During the inventory phase, boundaries are drawn along roads, other imprints of man and private/state property boundaries. In the study phase, boundaries may be redrawn to avoid imprints or activities that encroach upon the unit. BLM is not aware of any significant imprints resulting from exploration activities.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are present due to ample topographic and vegetative screening. The numerous draws provide visitors the opportunity to isolate themselves while in the unit. The high ridgetops provide numerous vistas which can enhance a feeling of solitude. The dense vegetation further promotes the opportunity to be alone while in the unit. The large size and blocked configuration provide ample room for individuals to disperse themselves within the unit.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eleven comments addressed these opportunities. Four comments generally concurred with the BLM analysis. One comment stated that opportunities are present because no one else is there. Six comments stated that outstanding opportunities are not present. One of these comments noted that ranchers, hunters, and engineers could be encountered at any time. A second comment cited intensive grazing activity as a distraction from solitude. A third comment noted the unit is under a flight path from Denver to Salt Lake. A fourth comment stated that there are oil shale facilities immediately adjacent to the unit which may result in excessive noise. A fifth comment noted that vistas along the southern boundary included outside sights such as ranching and roads. The sixth comment cited private property and a major highway bordering the unit as preventing opportunities for solitude.

In assessing the opportunities for solitude, BLM assessed the capability of the unit's physical features to screen visitors from each other. The topographic and vegetative screening effectively reduces the possibility of encountering others in the area. Dispersed livestock grazing as occurs in this unit is not a significant factor on the opportunities to become isolated. Livestock grazing has been recognized by Congress as an allowable use in designated wilderness areas. The other comments addressing the lack of solitude cited sights and sounds outside the unit. BLM has not evaluated outside sights and sounds during the inventory phase unless they were determined to be extremely imposing (e.g., a coal fired generating plant immediately adjacent to the unit). There are no oil shale facilities close to this unit and the adjoining land uses do not constitute disturbances that could be heard and seen throughout the unit.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE, UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Historically, big game hunting (mule deer and elk) has been the major recreational activity in the unit. Hunting and associated activities (camping, hiking, etc.) would continue to be the major primitive recreational opportunity in the unit. There are no supplemental values or other features which enhance the recreational opportunities or make them unique in a regional context. While opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation do exist, they are not considered outstanding.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Seven comments addressed these opportunities. One comment stated that hiking and packing the unit's draws and ridges as well as the hunting provide outstanding recreation opportunities. The other six comments generally cited lack of water, hot summer temperatures, and contact with livestock as detracting from the recreation opportunities.

There were no specific comments received that would change the BLM evaluation that hunting is the primary recreation opportunity in this unit and that overall the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

No supplemental values have been identified by BLM. Two public comments cited the presence of known fossil vertebrate resources and wildlife. No specific information was provided to enable BLM to confirm the presence of these values. Wildlife populations typical to the region are not considered a supplemental value. One comment said the unit is not spectacular, while another cited lack of potential water development sites.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

The imprints of man are minor and would not require artificial rehabilitation. Five comments addressed this issue. Two comments concurred with the BLM analysis. Three comments cited the arid climate as a hindrance to rehabilitation. Because the imprints of man are not substantially noticeable, natural processes are considered sufficient to accomplish rehabilitation.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The Windy Gulch unit is a large tract of undeveloped public land retaining much of its natural character. The varied topography and dense vegetation provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The geographic remoteness further enhances the opportunity to be isolated while in the unit. While opportunities for primitive recreation do exist, they are limited in extent and variety. The opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation considered together, however, do offer visitors the potential for a wilderness experience. Overall, the unit meets the criteria required for wilderness study.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

Two comments stated that the oil and gas lessees would be unable to exercise their lease rights. These comments also stated that coal underlies the unit and that an oil shale withdrawal covers part of the unit. Two comments expressed concern over negative effects the area might have on oil shale development in the Piceance Basin. Two comments stated that the grazing permittees would be denied the use of motorized equipment resulting in hardship on the livestock operation. Two comments stated that access to the unit is mostly over private lands. Two other comments expressed concern over the private lands that are almost entirely surrounded by the unit and the continued use of these lands. Finally, four comments expressed concerns with air quality designation and oil shale development in the Piceance Basin.

All of these issues will be considered and evaluated during the study process in determining the area's suitability as a wilderness area. During the study phase, existing uses will be allowed to continue. This includes use of motorized vehicles on existing ways and certain activities on oil and gas leases. WSA status does not affect adjoining land uses. BLM will continue to manage WSA's as as Class II air quality classification. The Department of the Interior will not recommend reclassification to the more restrictive Class I in connection with future wilderness recommendations resulting from the study phase. Further information on these issues is available in the BLM document entitled Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review, available at any BLM office.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Windy Gulch
CO 010 007C

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 2

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 24
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

11 Personal Letters
____ Postcards
6 Public Comments Forms
3 Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

19 Colorado
____ Utah
1 Other

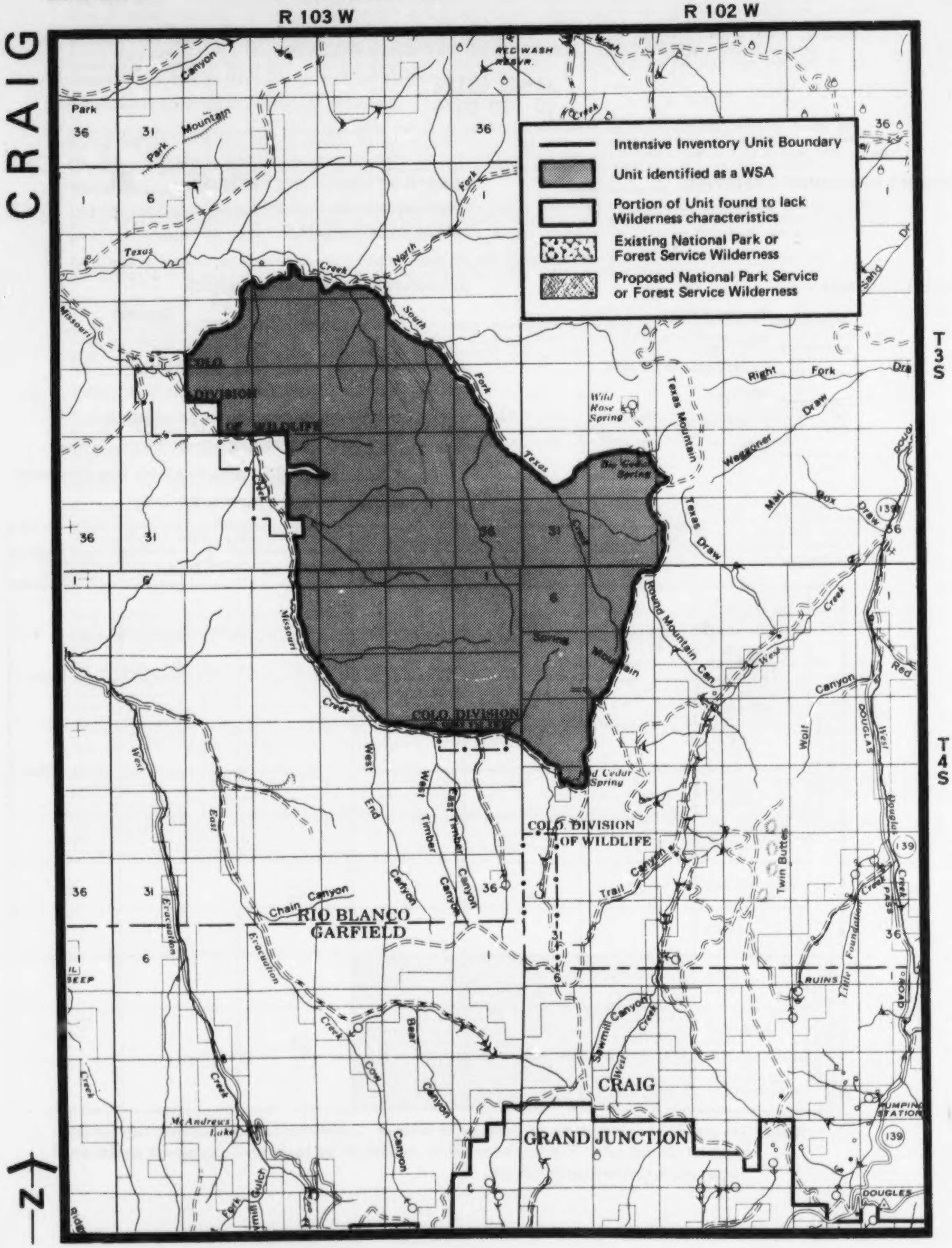
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

4 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
15 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	2			2		
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		7		7		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	2	8	1	10		1
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	4		
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	14		1
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	1		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-010-046 Oil Spring Mountain


R 103 W
R 102 W
CRAIG
T 3 S
T 4 S
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
RED WASH RESVR.
Park Mountain
Texas Creek
North Fork
South Fork
Missouri Creek
COLO. DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
Wild Rose Spring
Texas Mountain
Right Fork
Waggoner Draw
Big Cedar Spring
Texas Draw
Mail Box Draw
Round Mountain Can
Oil Spring Mountain
West Creek
Red Cedar Spring
West End Canyon
West Timber Canyon
East Timber Canyon
Chain Canyon
RIO BLANCO
GARFIELD
West Evacuation Creek
East Evacuation Creek
Trail Canyon
Twin Buttes
Wolf Canyon
DOUGLAS PASS
Douglas Creek
Little Foundation Creek
RUINS
Bear Creek
Cow Canyon
Sawmill Canyon
West Creek
CRAIG
GRAND JUNCTION
McAndrews Lake
PUMPING STATION
DOUGLAS
139
N
0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles

CO-010-046
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

OIL SPRING MOUNTAIN

CO-010-046

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 18,600 acres intensively inventoried
17,740 acres proposed as WSA in 2/1/80 recommendations
17,740 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____ Yes _X_ No

GENERAL LOCATION: South of Rangely (Rio Blanco County).

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Intensive Inventory 8/78: Because this unit was in a Special Project Area, an accelerated initial/intensive inventory was completed prior to the intiation of the Bureau-wide inventory. A unit containing 18,600 acres was determined not to meet the inventory criteria.

Proposed WSA Decision 8/31/79: Additional intensive field study during the summer of 1979 indicated that the original inventory of the unit may have reached invalid conclusions relating to solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The BLM State Director decided that the 18,600 acre unit should be re-evaluated.

2/1/80: Minor boundary adjustments were made along the periphery to exclude active gas wells, an access road, and recently constructed drill pads. The re-evaluation of the unit determined that the unit did meet the criteria; therefore, 17,740 acres were proposed as a WSA. The final acreage was calculated using an elecronic planimeter.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: The Oil Spring Mountain unit contains approximately 17,740 acres of contiguous public land. The surrounding lands are predominantly public lands with some Colorado Division of Wildlife lands along the southern and western boundaries. The entire unit is under oil and gas leases and grazing leases.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The Oil Spring Mountain unit offers a variety of topographic relief and vegetation. The dominant feature is Oil Spring Mountain, and with the associated ridges and drainages of this landform, the terrain is diverse and dissected. The range in elevation provides for a variety of vegetation including pinyon-juniper at the lower elevations and conifers and aspen at the higher elevations.

Imprints of Man: Minor imprints of man can be found in the form of past oil and gas activities. Generally, these old drill holes and ways are returning to a natural state. The bulk of the unit remains in a natural condition.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Seven comments addressed the naturalness of the unit. One of these comments concurred with the BLM analysis. Another stated the unit was of particular natural beauty. One comment stated the unit is not unique in surface form or quality of the land. Four comments cited the presence of past and present oil and gas activity in the unit as detracting from the unit's naturalness. No specific information was provided to alter the conclusions of the intensive inventory.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Due to the varied topography, with numerous drainages and ridges, the large ridge of Oil Spring Mountain, and the range in elevation (6,000 - 8,550 feet), ample topographic screening is present to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Oil Spring Mountain provides superior views of the surrounding landscape, including the High Uintas in Utah and the Cathedral Bluffs and the White River National Forest to the east. Vegetative screening also enhances the solitude potential within the unit. Pinyon-juniper dominates the unit, especially the ridges. The large size and blocked configuration of the unit further enhance opportunities for solitude.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Ten comments addressed these opportunities. Five comments generally concurred with the BLM analysis. Five comments stated that the opportunities are not outstanding. One of these noted the opportunities are not outstanding when compared to other areas in the Rocky Mountain region but provided no further information. Three comments cited activities on adjoining lands as detracting from the opportunities for solitude. These include traffic on the Missouri Creek road, helicopters servicing nearby gas wells, and pressure release valves on those wells.

BLM did not evaluate outside sights and sounds during the inventory phase unless they were determined to be extremely imposing (e.g., a coal fired generating plant immediately adjacent to the unit). While the outside sights and sounds may affect the opportunities for solitude on the fringe of the unit, the topographic relief, vegetative screening, and size of the unit are sufficient to provide isolation from others in the unit.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE, UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Historically, big game hunting has been the major recreational activity in the unit. Hunting and associated activities (camping, hiking, etc.) would continue to be the major primitive recreational opportunity in the unit. There are no supplemental values or other features that would directly enhance other types of recreational opportunities. While opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation do exist, they are not considered to be outstanding.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Nine comments addressed these opportunities. Three comments stated the opportunities are outstanding but provided no specific information. Six comments stated the opportunities are not outstanding for reasons including lack of water and a zig-zag configuration. No specific information was provided to change the BLM evaluation that hunting is the primary primitive recreation opportunity in this unit.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Wild horses are found in the northern portion of the unit. The area is considered critical deer winter range and also provides habitat for elk, mountain lion, and black bear. The Oil Spring Mountain unit is an "island" in an area which is receiving intensive oil and gas exploration and development. It represents an undisturbed portion of this region.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Five comments addressed supplemental values. One comment noted the presence of documented archaeological sites of the Fremont culture. A second comment stated that Oil Spring Mountain is the only ridge of its structure and ecology remaining wild in Colorado. Two comments noted the presence of a variety of wildlife and wild horses. One of these comments also stated the unit has coniferous forests not usually found in other BLM units near the Utah border. Supplemental values are identified during the inventory phase for evaluation during the study phase.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

The northwest portion of the unit was the site of past oil and gas activity (1964), but these disturbances are rehabilitating through natural processes. Natural rehabilitation is occurring within the unit resulting in the imprints of man returning to a substantially unnoticeable condition. Natural processes or hand labor would effectively rehabilitate the minor imprints of man. Two comments concurred with the BLM analysis.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The Oil Spring Mountain unit is a large tract of undeveloped Public Land (17,740 acres) retaining much of its natural character. The highly dissected topography and variety of vegetation as well as the prominence of Oil Spring Mountain enhance the opportunities for solitude. The unit exhibits several classic characteristics of wilderness including rugged terrain largely unaffected by man, aesthetically pleasing landscape, remoteness, scenic vistas and interesting wildlife. The unit meets the size, naturalness, and solitude criteria; therefore, it qualifies for wilderness study.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

Seven comments noted that the unit is located in a significant gas producing area as evidenced by the surrounding oil and gas development. One of these comments requested an exception to not considering other resource values in the inventory phase. The procedures developed for the wilderness review process were adopted after a national public review period in 1977-78. To alter the procedures after formal adoption would be arbitrary and subject to administrative appeals which could result in lengthy delays in completing the process.

One comment stated that one of the ranches with grazing permits on the unit is currently preparing an allotment management plan (AMP). The comment further states that wilderness designation will conflict with some of the proposals in the AMP.

One comment stated Class I air designation would prohibit development of energy resources. Reclassification of air quality designations is not a part of the wilderness review process.

Additional information on these issues is available in the document Interim Management of Lands Under Wilderness Review, available at any BLM office.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Oil Spring Mountain
CO 010 046

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 17

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 29
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

16 Personal Letters
Postcards
1 Public Comments Forms
Meetings
Phone Calls
Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

13 Colorado
Utah
4 Other

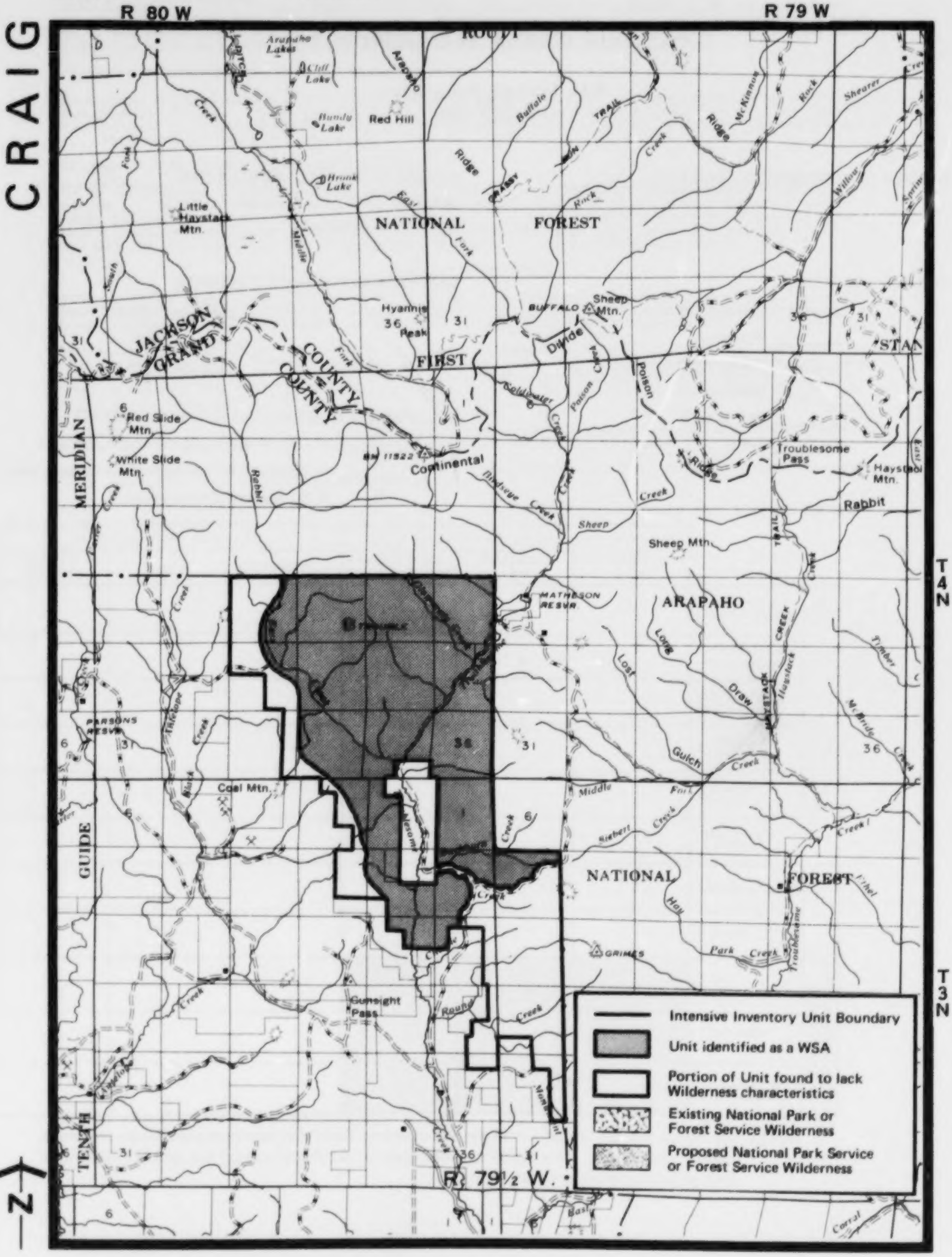
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

8 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
9 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
0 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOM-MENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRON-MENTAL GP.	3			2		1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		4		2		2
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.		2		2		
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	5	3		7		1
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	6		2
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	7		2
	NO RECOM-MENDATION	▨	▨	▨			

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-010-155 Troublesome


R 80 W
R 79 W
CRAIG
ROUTT
Arapaho Lakes
Cliff Lake
Bundy Lake
Red Hill
Hronk Lake
Little Haystack Mtn.
NATIONAL
FOREST
Buffalo
Ridge
GRASSY
RUN
TRAIL
McKinnon
Rock
Shearer
Creek
Willow
East
Fork
Middle
Sheep Mtn.
BUFFALO
Hyannis Peak
36
31
JACKSON
GRAND
COUNTY
COUNTY
FIRST
Divide
Poison
Ridge
STA
MERIDIAN
Red Slide Mtn.
White Slide Mtn.
Continental
Troublesome Pass
Haystack Mtn.
Rabbit
Sheep
Sheep Mtn.
Rabbit
T 4 N
MATHESON RESVR
ARAPAHO
Lost
Long
Draw
HAYSTACK
CREEK
Haystack
Timber
McBride
Gulch
Creek
PARSONS RESVR
Antelope
Black
Coal Mtn.
Middle
Fork
Siebert
Creek
NATIONAL
FOREST
Hay
Ethel
GUIDE
GRIMES
Park
Creek
Troublesome
T 3 N
Gunsight Pass
Rough
Creek
TENTH
R. 79½ W.
Corral
Basin
N
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

TROUBLESOME

CO-010-155

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 11,915 acres intensively inventoried
9,595 acres proposed as WSA in 2/1/80 recommendations
8,250 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: X Yes ____ No

Additions ____ acres Deletions 1,345 acres
(As a result of public comment)

GENERAL LOCATION: North of Kremmling (Grand County).

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: A 12,400 acre unit was proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: As a result of public comments and a field check, the boundary was adjusted to exclude 480 acres of public land on Coal Mountain that was contiguous to the bulk of the unit for only 300 feet. The boundary was also adjusted to exclude the maintained road leading to the private inholding. An 11,915 acre unit was intensively inventoried.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: The intensive inventory field check confirmed a road in the Siebert Creek area leading to Matheson Reservoir. This road isolated the southeastern portion of the unit. Since the adjoining National Forest lands have not been recommended for wilderness in RARE II, the boundary was adjusted to exclude this portion for the unit. A 9,595 acre unit was proposed as a Wilderness Study Area.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: Approximately 8,250 acres of contiguous public land are contained within this unit. A private inholding of 625 acres is located in the interior of the unit, but was not inventoried for wilderness characteristics. The surrounding lands are National Forest to the north and east and predominantly private to the south and west. The adjoining National Forest lands were not recommended for wilderness during the RARE II process.

Note: The acreage of the private inholding was incorrectly reported as 425 acres in the intensive inventory reports. The correct acreage is 625 acres. Corrections have been made to intensive inventory reports on file in Denver and Kremmling.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The Troublesome Unit represents a rugged, mountainous terrain varying in elevation from 8,000 to 10,800 feet. The rock slide and rock outcropping areas contribute to this ruggedness. Most of the unit is forested with lodgepole pine, spruce, fir, and aspen. Vegetative variety is enhanced by the riparian habitat along the streams and the fungi-lichen ecotone on the rock outcroppings.

Imprints of Man: The area is generally natural in appearance and has retained its ecological naturalness as well. Minor imprints include two ways, an abandoned irrigation ditch and several stock watering ponds and other range improvements. Most of these imprints are well screened by the dense forest vegetation and topography, and are substantially unnoticeable.

Evaluation of Public Comment: Twenty-two comments addressed the naturalness of the unit. Nine comments generally concurred with the BLM analysis. Two of these comments stated that the range improvements are barely noticeable. Thirteen comments stated that parts of the unit are not in a substantially natural condition. Eight comments cited the presence of range improvements including fences and the irrigation ditch and the litter generated by grazing activity. Two comments stated that there is a machine built road in the southwestern portion of the unit. One comment stated that there are also large mining test holes in the unit but provided no specific location information. Six comments cited the maintained road to the cabins on the private inholding. Four comments noted that the cabins and other improvements on the private inholding were visible from within the unit.

The range improvements are all small in scale, do not represent significant surface disturbances, and do not contrast to any great degree with the surrounding landscape. Only one fence actually extends into the unit. The other fences referred to are located on the unit's boundaries with private property. A drift fence extends for less than one-half mile into the unit and is made of natural materials making it substantially unnoticeable. BLM is not aware of any large mining test holes within the unit. BLM field checked the "road" in the western portion of the unit and determined that it represented a significant imprint of man. The western boundary has been adjusted accordingly. On the northwest corner of the unit, the road is maintained as access to an irrigation ditch which originates on Rabbit Ears Creek. The "road" in the southwest portion of the unit was constructed in the early 70's for BLM survey work. While this portion of the "road" has not been maintained in recent years, it is cut along hillsides and through forests for much of its route. Because of these cuts, natural rehabilitation is unable to reduce the visual impact of this imprint.

The maintained road to the private inholding was excluded during the initial inventory, and the maintained road to Matheson Reservoir was excluded from the unit as a result of the intensive inventory. As these roads form the boundaries of the unit, they do not impact the naturalness of the unit itself. BLM has not assesed the impacts of improvements on private land during the inventory phase unless they were determined to be extremely imposing (see solitude below). Boundaries have been drawn to the edge of roads, other major imprints of man, or property boundaries consistent with the inventory procedures. During the study phase, the outside sights and sounds may be a consideration in further boundary adjustments.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: The Troublesome Unit has outstanding opportunities for solitude due to the following factors: sufficient size, topographic variation, and forest and riparian vegetation. The size of the unit provides ample opportunity for visitors to disperse themselves while in the unit. The drainages of Rabbit Ears and Troublesome Creeks, their side drainages, and intervening ridges would screen visitors from each other and provide opportunities to become isolated. These opportunities are enhanced by the dense forest and riparian vegetation. Visitors are also afforded long range views from the higher points in the northern portion, thus enhancing a feeling of vastness. Overall, this unit provides numerous opportunities for solitude.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Thirteen comments addressed these opportunities. Five comments generally concurred with the BLM analysis. One comment stated the unit is of sufficient size to provide outstanding opportunities. Another comment noted that the same conditions exist in the unit as when the commentor first hiked and camped in the area in 1936. Eight comments stated that the opportunities for solitude are not outstanding. Five comments cited activities on the private inholding including the use of chainsaws, vehicles, and generators. One of these comments stated that the vegetative and topographic screening is insufficient to conceal these activities. Five comments cited low flying aircraft including scheduled flights from Denver to Steamboat Springs. Two comments noted uses on adjoining ranch lands. Two comments also cited grazing on the unit itself as detracting from the opportunity to experience solitude. One comment stated that motorized vehicles use the area especially on weekends. One comment stated that the "cherrystemmed" road to the private inholding decreased the opportunities. This comment also stated that the private inholding "twists the BLM lands into a doughnut-shaped configuration with only a narrow horseshoe of BLM lands around the private lands."

Most of the comments addressing the lack of opportunities for solitude mentioned sights and sounds outside the unit. BLM has not evaluated outside sights and sounds during the inventory phase unless they were determined to be extremely imposing (e.g., a coal fired generating plant immediately adjacent to the unit, the presence of which could be noticed throughout the unit). Opportunities for solitude need not be present throughout the entire unit in order to be outstanding. While these outside sights and sounds may affect the opportunities for solitude in the portions of the unit immediately adjacent to private land, the topographic relief, vegetative screening, and the geographic isolation of a large portion of the unit (i.e., the northern portions) provide numerous opportunities to become isolated from others in the unit. As discussed under Naturalness, the boundaries of an area may be redrawn during the study phase to avoid encroaching activities if a portion of the unit is determined to be suitable for wilderness designation. Periodic flights are not considered to be extremely imposing on the opportunities to become isolated from others in the unit. Likewise, dispersed grazing of cattle is not considered a significant detraction from solitude. Grazing is an allowable use in designated wilderness areas. Opportunities for solitude were evaluated on the capability of the area's physical characteristics to screen visitors from each other while in the unit. Current uses (i.e., motorized vehicles) that may be restricted should the area or a portion of it be designated wilderness by Congress were not evaluated for their impact on solitude. Finally, the private inholding affects only the configuration of the southern half of the unit. The northern half of the unit is well-blocked and overall the unit has outstanding opportunities for solitude. As noted under Naturalness, the boundaries of inventory units were drawn along roads, major imprints of man or property boundaries. Outside influences will be a factor considered in the study phase.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE, UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are present due to the following characteristics: (a) variety of game and nongame wildlife, (b) opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and snow shoeing, (c) availability of stream and riparian habitat for fishing and wildlife viewing, (d) variety of geologic features for viewing and non-technical climbing, and (e) opportunities for scenic viewing from higher elevations. The private inholding would impede visitors traveling in the southern portion of the unit.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Thirty-one comments addressed these opportunities. Nine comments generally concurred with the BLM analysis. Twenty-two comments stated that the opportunities are not outstanding. Seven of these comments cited the steepness of the terrain as inhibiting the recreation opportunities. Two comments stated that fences in the unit would be obstacles to unconfined movement. Four comments also cited the private inholding as an impediment to travel in the unit. Three comments stated that the private inholding was the only land suitable for recreational activities. Three comments also stated that the fishing opportunities are limited upstream from the private inholding. One comment cited the lack of "geologic or vista-type intrigue," while another said the unit is usable primarily for hunting. Four comments noted the lack of access to the area and expressed concern over the possibility of visitors trespassing across the private land to gain access to the northern portion of the unit. One comment stated that recreation potential is offset by the fragility of the area. Finally, four comments cited adjoining land uses and low flying aircraft as detracting from the recreation opportunities.

While the terrain of the unit is generally rugged, there are sufficient opportunities to move throughout the unit including the meadows along Rabbit Ears Creek and Troublesome Creek above the private inholding. The presence of down timber and other obstacles to easy movement do not necessarily inhibit primitive recreation activities, but rather enable the visitor to pursue such activities in a setting unconfined by man (e.g., maintained trails, campsites, etc.).

Management for recreational activities will be considered in the study phase as part of determining the area's suitability for wilderness designation. As noted under Naturalness, only one fence actually extends into the unit. The fences along the unit boundaries would serve to notify users of a change in land ownership. It is also true that the private inholding does impede travel in the southern portion of the unit along Troublesome Creek. It is possible to avoid the private property by traveling in the western portion of the unit. Visitors entering the unit from the north, west or east could travel in the unit without crossing the private inholding.

While the private land does appear to have excellent recreational opportunities, it was not inventoried for wilderness characteristics. The public land surrounding and north of the private land was determined to meet the inventory criteria. The intensive inventory determined that it is possible to pursue a variety of recreational activities on the public lands comprising this unit. In response to comments that the intensive inventory did not adequately document with photos the characteristics of the public land, additional photos have been obtained and placed in the files in Denver and Kremmling. Rabbit Ears and Troublesome Creeks above their confluence provide opportunities for brook trout fishing. Fishing is just one of several activities available and considered to enhance the overall recreation opportunities. The feasibility of obtaining additional public access will be addressed in the study phase. Public access currently exists over National Forest land on the northern and eastern boundaries of the unit. An area's fragility vs. recreation use is a management consideration that would be addressed in the management plan prepared if the area is designated wilderness. Finally, outside sights and sounds are addressed under solitude.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: The Troublesome Unit is within three to five hours drive (depending on location of access) to the Denver metropolitan area. U.S. Highway 40, which passes within nine miles of the unit, serves as a major tourist route for northern Colorado. Another value is that this unit is adjacent to and provides physical access to over 80,000 acres of undeveloped land in the Arapahoe National Forest. The recreational opportunities are similar to those of the Troublesome Unit.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Ten comments generally concurred with the BLM analysis. Several of these comments cited wildlife as an important value. Several comments also noted that the unit is from three to five hours from Denver. Several comments also noted that the future management of the adjoining National Forest lands is non-wilderness. BLM recognizes this and is only pointing out that the Troublesome unit is at the present time adjacent to a large undeveloped area. The Troublesome unit has been determined to meet the inventory criteria on its own merits.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

As discussed under Naturalness, the western boundary was adjusted to exclude a road which is a significant imprint of man.

Natural rehabilitation is occurring within the remainder of the unit resulting in the imprints of man returning to a substantially unnoticeable condition. Natural processes or hand labor would effectively rehabilitate the minor imprints of man.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Fourteen comments addressed this issue. Five comments generally concurred with the BLM analysis. Nine comments stated the reclamation potential was low. Six of these comments stated that the roads in and around the unit were cut and deeply rutted resulting in a major reclamation effort. One comment cited lack of rainfall and steep ridges. Two comments stated that man's imprint could not be reclaimed as long as grazing and other uses continued in the unit and on adjoining lands. Boundary adjustments have excluded the significant imprints of man.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION OF AREA AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The Troublesome inventory unit is an undeveloped tract of public land retaining its primeval character and influence, and without significant premanent improvements. Outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation are present due to dense forestation, a variety of wildlife, perennial streams, and varied topographic and geologic features. Overall, the unit meets the criteria of a Wilderness Study Area.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

Three comments stated the grazing leases on the unit are integral parts of adjoining ranching operations. Five comments noted the potential for minerals such as copper, uranium, coal, and oil and gas. Reference was made to the adjoining National Forest lands which were not recommended for wilderness in RARE II partly because of known or potential mineral values. One of these comments requested BLM to consider mineral resources in determining whether a unit should become a WSA. The wilderness review process was developed with public input and after a national public review period. To change the ground rules now would delay completion of the inventory and initiation of the study phase.

Several comments stated that there is already enough designated wilderness in Colorado. Several comments also stated that wilderness designation attracts many more people which destroys the values for which the area was protected.

Finally, several comments asked that the rights and investment of the private land owners be respected and protected.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Troublesome
CO 010 155

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 57

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 60
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

35 Personal Letters
____ Postcards
21 Public Comments Forms
1 Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

53 Colorado
____ Utah
4 Other

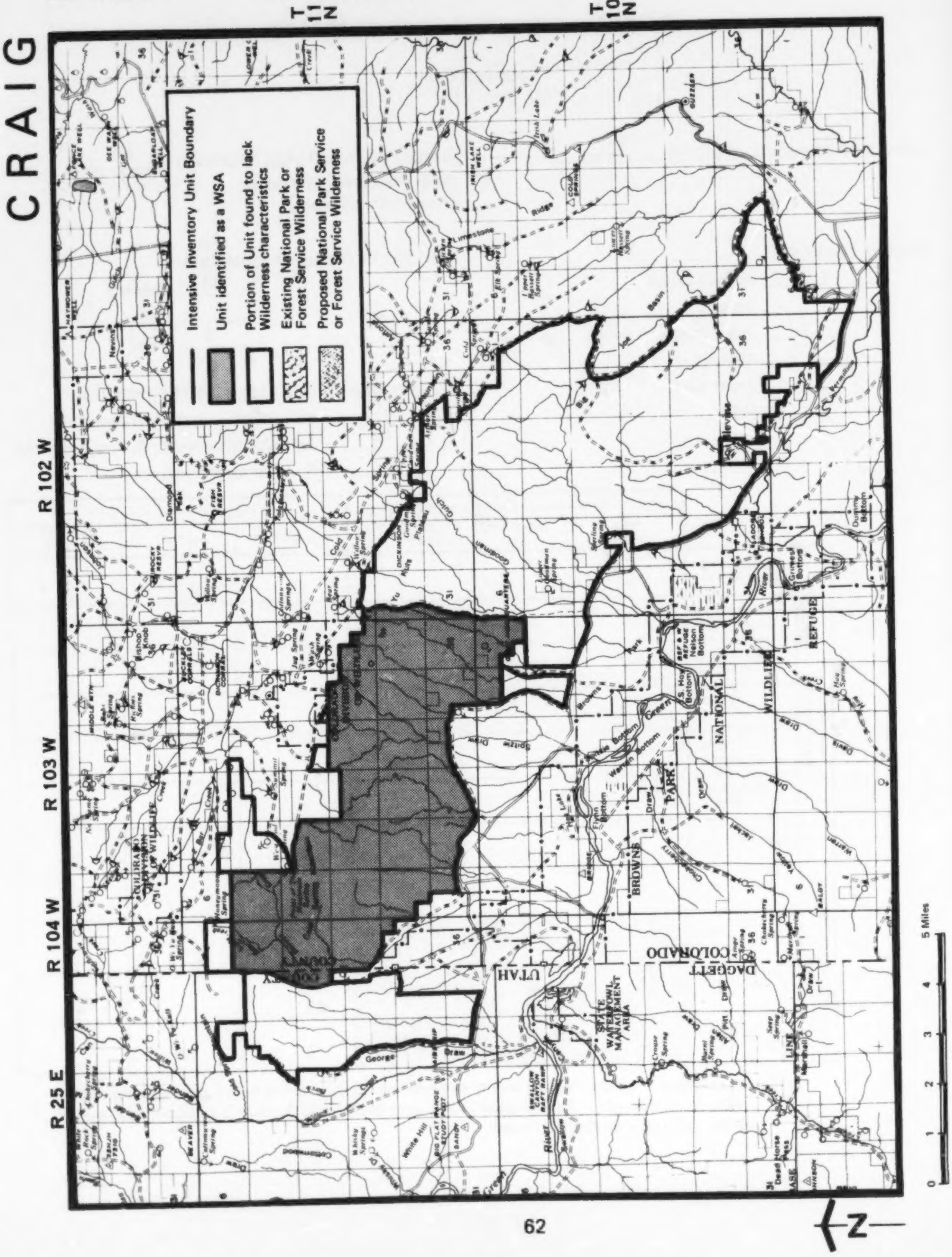
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

12 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
44 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	5			3	1	1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		5		5		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.			1	1		
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	7	39		44		2
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	9	1	2
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	43		1
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	1		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-010-208 Cold Springs West


CRAIG
T 11 N
T 10 N
R 25 E
R 104 W
R 103 W
R 102 W
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
UTAH
COLORADO
DAGGETT
BROWNS PARK
NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
REFUGE
STATE WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT AREA
Green
River
George
Draw
Diamond Peak
Limestone
Ridge
Ice
Basin
Goodman
Cold Spring
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles
N

CO-010-208
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

WEST COLD SPRINGS

CO-010-208
(UT-080-103)

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 45,021 acres intensively inventoried (40,290-CO; 4,731-UT)
17,682 acres proposed as WSA in 2/1/80 recommendations (14,482-CO; 3,200-UT)
14,587 acres identified as a WSA (14,352-CO; 235-UT)

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: X Yes ____ No

Additions ____ acres Deletions 3,095 acres (130-CO; 2,965-UT)

GENERAL LOCATION: Northwest corner of Colorado along the Utah border (Moffat County, Colorado; Daggett County, Utah).

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: A 46,610 acre unit (Colorado and Utah) was proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: As a result of public comments and a field check, the boundary was adjusted to exclude roads and an irrigation ditch. A 45,021 acre unit (Colorado and Utah) was intensively inventoried.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: As a result of the intensive inventory field work, major boundary adjustments were made to exclude numerous grazing imprints in the eastern (Colorado) and western (Utah) portions of the unit. These imprints (ways, fences, stock watering tanks and pipelines, etc.) were found to have little or no vegetative screening. The regular use, hand maintenance, wide distribution, and the number of imprints combined to create a substantial effect on the naturalness of the portions deleted. If the boundary had been drawn around each imprint, the net effect would have been numerous fingers of land without wilderness characteristics penetrating the unit. As a result, the eastern boundary was relocated to the Matt Trail. A 17,682 acre unit (Colorado and Utah) was proposed as a Wilderness Study Area.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: The unit contains 14,587 acres of public land administered by BLM. Four withdrawals for public water reserves totaling 180 acres are located in the unit. The unit has grazing leases and oil and gas leases.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The West Cold Springs unit consists primarily of the rough and steep south facing slopes of Cold Springs Mountain. The top of the mountain is only partially in the unit along the northern boundary. The majority of the top of the mountain is state and private lands. Many drainages exist with two major ones being Beaver Canyon along the west and Spitzie Draw along the east. The vegetation near water is varied containing willows and other riparian vegetation. The top of the mountain is flat and grassy with patches of aspen and pinyon juniper. The majority of the unit, the south facing slopes, consists of sage and dense pinyon juniper.

Imprints of Man: After boundary adjustments, the unit is in a natural condition with only minor imprints of man. The imprints remaining in the unit are related to grazing and include short ways, an above ground plastic water pipeline, and a short fence line. These imprints do not represent major surface or vegetative disturbances and are few in number; thus, the visual contrast is slight. Overall, the adjusted unit is in a natural condition with man's imprint substantially unnoticeable.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Twelve comments specifically addressed the naturalness of the unit. Six comments generally concurred with the BLM analysis that the unit is in a natural condition with only minor imprints of man. Six comments considered part of the unit to be in an unnatural state due to offsite human impacts encroaching upon the unit. One comment noted there are several roads extending into the unit on the south side (west end). The comment stated that these roads have been maintained by shovel and on the east end there are roads maintained by machinery.

No boundary adjustments to exclude additional imprints of man were made based upon public comment. See "Solitude" for a discussion of boundary adjustments subsequent to the 2/1/80 recommendation.

Previous boundary adjustments excluded all major imprints including maintained roads. The remainder of the unit is in a natural condition with only minor imprints of man. Activities outside the unit boundaries are not considered to detract from an area's naturalness.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Due to the varied topography and dense vegetation, the adjusted Cold Springs unit does offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. A sense of vastness is present due to the size and the high elevations. Isolation can be found in the draws and canyons. The dense vegetation offers excellent screening from other's activities. The large size and blocked configuration also enhance the variety and extent of places to experience solitude. However, Beaver Creek Canyon along the Colorado-Utah border is a major break in topography and represents the western end of Cold Springs Mountain. Due to private land coming up to the mouth of the canyon, the portion of the unit west of the canyon is contiguous to the bulk of the unit for less than two miles and because of the break in topography this extreme western portion of the unit is essentially isolated from the majority of the unit. For these reasons this portion of the unit lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude. The boundary has been adjusted to exclude this portion of the unit. The western boundary now extends northward from the private land along the western rim of Beaver Creek Canyon. After boundary adjustments the opportunities for solitude in the remainder of the unit are outstanding.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Five comments supported the BLM recommendation that the unit does provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Three comments stated that rugged topography and dense vegetation provided isolation and separation and one comment cited the extensive view. Eleven comments specifically stated opportunities for solitude are limited or not present. Of these comments, two suggested vehicles were necessary and one stated that intruding roads limited solitude. Two comments noted the lack of variation in topography and lack of dense vegetation in parts of the unit as limiting factors for solitude. Six comments suggested that outside sights and sounds from Brown's Park were conflicting factors for outstanding opportunities for solitude. One comment stated the solitude of the area is limited due to control of access by adjacent private lands.

Vehicles could only be used in limited portions of this unit. The rugged terrain restricts use of this unit to foot and horseback. Previous boundary adjustments have excluded all roads and significant ways. While topography and vegetation provides less screening in some portions of the unit, opportunities for solitude need not be present throughout the entire unit in order to be outstanding. The topography and vegetation is sufficient to provide numerous opportunities to become isolated; therefore, the overall opportunities are considered to be outstanding. Outside sights and sounds were not considered during the inventory phase unless they were determined to be extremely imposing (e.g., a coal fired generating plant adjacent to the unit). In this case, the outside sights and sounds were not considered imposing. Access to the unit is a factor that will be addressed in the study phase.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE, UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Due to the diverse topography and vegetation, the presence of water, and the variety of wildlife, this unit has outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The size and configuration also enhance the variety and extent of places to experience primitive recreation. The canyon, draws, and steep slopes of the mountain offer excellent opportunities for backpacking, hiking, photography and scenic viewing. In general, the number of activities available and quality of the experiences associated with them, provide this unit with outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Because the extreme western portion of the unit is isolated from the majority of the unit (see "Solitude"), it was determined not to have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Fourteen comments specifically addressed these opportunities. Five comments generally concurred with the BLM analysis, each stating different reasons. One mentioned canyon exploration, one noted exceptional backpacking and hiking as well as excellent hunting opportunities due to the observance of a large elk herd, and one commentor mentioned scenic vistas from the top of Cold Springs Mountain as well as outstanding wildlife and bird watching. Nine comments stated that the opportunities were nonexistent or limited. Three of these comments mentioned a need for a vehicle to recreate in the unit, and two commentors suggested that outside influences and proximity to Browns Park severely hampered opportunities for primitive recreation.

BLM considers the variety of wildlife, presence of water, diverse topography and vegetation as well as size and configuration of this unit to provide a variety of outstanding recreational activities. As noted under solitude, vehicles could be used only in limited portions of the unit due to the rugged topography. Outside sights and sounds are discussed under Solitude.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: Few supplemental values have been recorded due to the ruggedness and the remote location of the area which has limited inventory work. The area is known to possess prehistoric and historic cultural values. During prehistoric times the area was first utilized by the Fremont culture and later by the Ute and Shoshoni tribes. The endangered Peregrine falcon has been observed in this unit and probably hunts over this area, but no nests are known to occur. Parthenium ligulatum, a threatened and endangered plant species, has been located within this unit. Bobcat and mountain lion are also known to occur in the area.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eight comments specifically addressed this criteria. Three comments stated there were no supplemental values. One commentor suggested that Parthenium ligulatum, a threatened and endangered plant species, would not be harmed and that no evidence exists that the Peregrine falcon nests or lives in the unit. Five comments noted that the unit contained supplemental values including: cultural resources, wildlife such as the Peregrine falcon, eagle, elk, etc., the threatened and endangered plant Parthenium ligulatum, unique geology and possible fossil vertebrate resources. The presence of supplemental values does not by itself qualify an area for wilderness study. Supplemental values will be evaluated for their significance in the study phase.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

After boundary adjustments, all imprints that are within the area are minor in character and rehabilitation is not necessary. Five comments specifically addressed this issue. Three suggested that the imprints were minor and could be easily concealed through hand labor and natural processes and active rehabilitation was not necessary. Two comments stated that it would take extensive work and money for reclamation, but provided no specific information on where such work would be required.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

After boundary adjustments, the Cold Springs unit is a large tract of public land without any significant permanent improvements. The area exhibits a high degree of naturalness with a variety of vegetation and topography . Because of the large size, rugged terrain, and excellent vegetative screening, both outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation do exist. These factors qualify the adjusted unit for wilderness study.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November, 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land use decisions.

Four comments cited the potential for oil and gas reserves and one identified grazing as a conflict. One commentor suggested more restrictive management of grazing in the unit. Another comment mentioned state lands adjacent to the unit.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Cold Springs West
CO 010 208

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 19

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 40
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

10 Personal Letters
Postcards
5 Public Comments Forms
2 Meetings
1 Phone Calls
1 Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

15 Colorado
2 Utah
2 Other

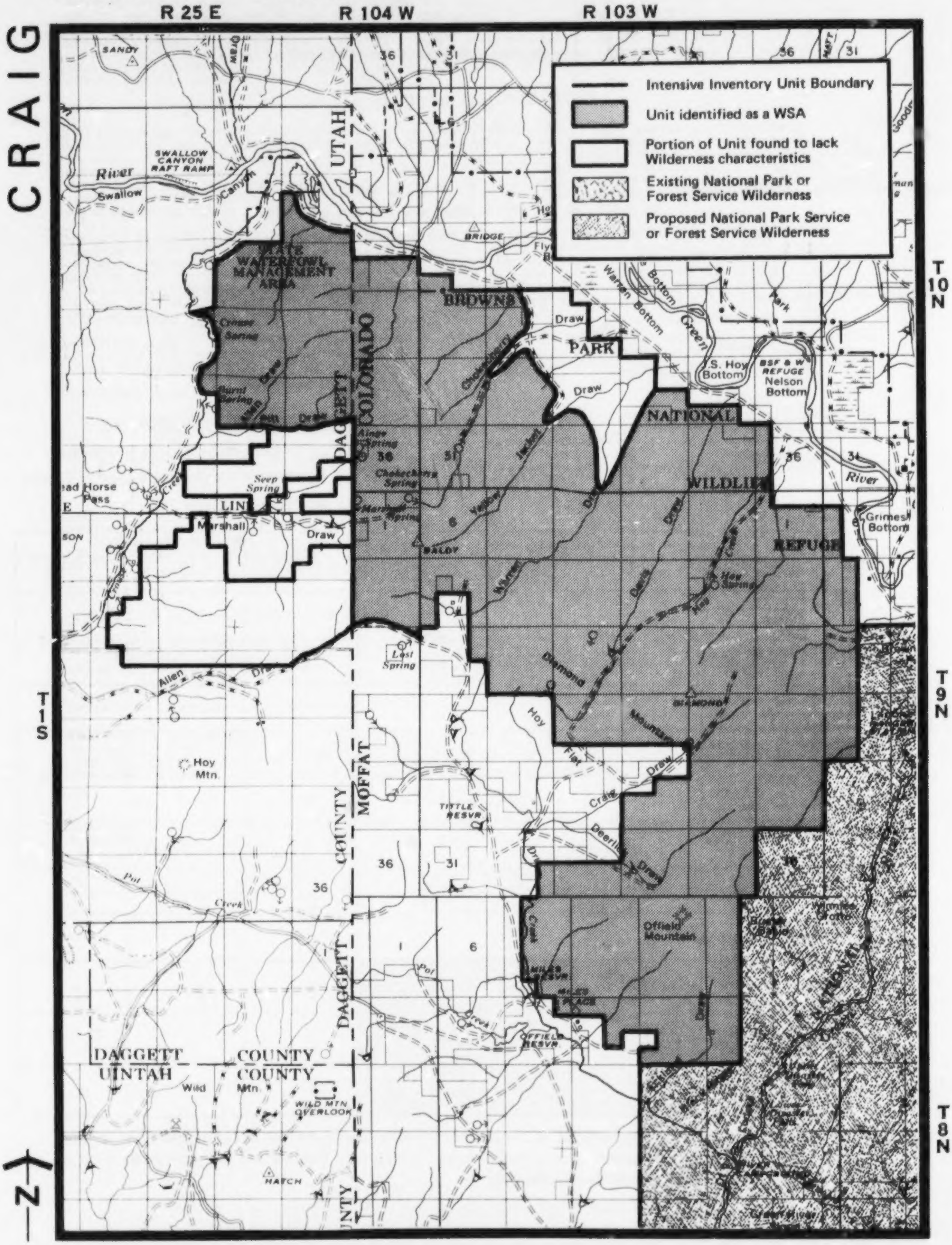
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

7 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
9 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
3 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	3			2		1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		3		3		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.			2	2		
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	4	6	1	8	2	1
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	3	2	2
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	9		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	3		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-010-214 Diamond Breaks


R 25 E
R 104 W
R 103 W
CRAIG
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
T 10 N
T 9 N
T 8 N
T 1 S
N
UTAH
COLORADO
DAGGETT
MOFFAT
COUNTY
DAGGETT COUNTY
UINTAH COUNTY
STATE WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT AREA
BROWNS
PARK
NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
REFUGE
Swallow
River
SWALLOW CANYON RAFT RAMP
Canyon
Crouse Spring
Burnt Spring
Seep Spring
Marshall
Draw
Chokecherry Spring
Lost Spring
Hoy Mtn.
Hoy Flat
Craig Draw
Diamond Mountain
Offield Mountain
TITTLE RESVR
MILES RESVR
MILES PLACE
OFFIELD RESVR
Pot Creek
Wild Mtn.
WILD MTN OVERLOOK
HATCH
BRIDGE
Green
S. Hoy Bottom
BSF & W REFUGE Nelson Bottom
Grimes Bottom
Warren Bottom
Allen Draw
BALDY
DIAMOND
36
31
1
6
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

DIAMOND BREAKS

CO-010-214
UT-080-113

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 42,070 acres intensively inventoried (33,990-CO; 8,080-UT)
36,580 acres proposed as WSA in 2/1/80 recommendations (32,680-CO; 3,900-UT)
35,380 acres identified as a WSA (31,480-CO; 3,900-UT)

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: X Yes ____ No

Additions ____ acres Deletions 1,200 acres (CO)
(as a result of public comments)

GENERAL LOCATION: Extreme Northwest Colorado and Eastern Utah (Moffat and Daggett Counties).

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: A 33,990 acre unit was proposed for intensive inventory. This acreage figure did not include the 8,080 acres in Utah. The combined total was 42,070.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: The combined acreage (Colorado and Utah) that was intensively inventoried is 42,070 acres.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: As a result of the intensive inventory, the boundary was adjusted in the southern and western portions of the unit to exclude small, narrow pieces of public land extending from the bulk of the unit, where it was determined that opportunities for solitude were limited. This resulted in a more blocked configuration for the unit. A 36,580 acre unit (Colorado and Utah) was recommended as a Wilderness Study Area.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: The unit straddles the Utah-Colorado border, with 31,480 acres in Colorado and 3,900 acres in Utah. To the east is Dinosaur National Monument which has been proposed for wilderness and to the north is Brown's Park National Wildlife Refuge. To the south and west is a mixture of public and private lands. The main use of the unit is grazing with some hunting also occurring. There are five public water reserves in the unit.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The unit exhibits a high degree of naturalness with a diverse mixture of vegetation from sagebrush flats to aspen, fir and ponderosa pine in the higher elevations; topographic relief is varied with numerous mountaintops, ridges and steep walled draws.

Imprints of Man: The imprints of man (ways, fences, and water developments) are substantially unnoticeable and do not significantly detract from the naturalness of the unit. These minor imprints are few in number and widely distributed in the unit.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Sixteen comments addressed the naturalness of the unit. Thirteen comments stated that the unit was in a natural condition. Of these comments six noted there were few or minor imprints of man in the unit. Two comments cited the variety of vegetation and topography and one commenter noted that the way in Hoy Draw was overgrown with vegetation. Three comments stated that part of the unit was not natural. One of these comments noted that the imprints of man are readily visible due to extensive grazing. Another comment cited several maintained roads extending into Chokecherry, Yellow Jacket, Warren and Hoy Draws.

Based on field checks of the above mentioned imprints, a boundary adjustment of 1,200 acres was made in the northern portion of the unit to exclude roads and ways found to be significant. The ways are located in the open sagebrush flats and are highly visible; thus, their exclusion from the unit. The ways and other minor imprints remaining in the unit are well screened by the topography and vegetation.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: The large size of the unit combined with the diversity in terrain represented by numerous mountain meadows and peaks, valleys, steep sloped draws and a diverse vegetative cover provide for outstanding opportunities for solitude. Numerous draws, including Chokecherry, Yellow Jacket, Warren, Hoy Creek, and Davis provide numerous opportunities for solitude due to the steep side slopes which provide isolation. Overall, this unit has outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Nineteen comments specifically addressed the opportunities for solitude. Thirteen comments stated that the unit has outstanding opportunities for solitude. These comments cited the riparian vegetation of the draws as providing natural cover, the deep canyons, the large size, and the variety of vegetation and landforms. One commenter noted from personal observation that Chokecherry and Hoy Draws provided outstanding solitude and beauty. Six comments stated that the unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Two of these suggested that motorized vehicles were necessary to use the area; one comment noted roads in the area; and two comments stated that outside sights and sounds from Brown's Park severely hampered the opportunities for solitude.

BLM did not evaluate outside sights and sounds during the inventory phase unless they were determined to be extremely imposing upon the unit. The numerous draws and diversity of vegetation and topography provides adequate screening to furnish outstanding opportunities to become truly isolated within the unit.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: The large size of the unit with its diversity of terrain and vegetation offers outstanding opportunities for a variety of primitive or unconfined types of recreation. The abundant wildlife of the unit and the sharing of common borders with Dinosaur National Monument further enhance the opportunities for recreation and unconfined movement. Opportunities for backpacking, scenic viewing, hunting, and photography are outstanding in the unit.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Seventeen comments addressed these opportunities. Twelve comments supported the BLM analysis that the unit has outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. These comments referred to activities such as hunting, hiking, backpacking, photography, wildlife and bird watching and scenic vistas. Two comments stated that the large size topography, geologic features, wildlife and cultural resources provided outstanding opportunities for recreational activities.

Five comments stated that outstanding opportunities are not present in the unit. Three of these comments suggested that motorized vehicles were needed for recreation and one suggested that a lack of water would limit activities. One comment noted that outside sights and sounds from Brown's Park severely hamper these opportunities.

Outside sights and sounds were not considered in the intensive inventory unless they were found to significantly affect this criteria. The large size, blocked configuration and diverse topography and vegetation allow for outstanding primitive recreation and freedom of movement within the unit. A variety of non-motorized activities could take place in this unit. Water is available in some of the draws at certain times of the year. Visitors planning extended stays would have to plan for the availability of water.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: Several prehistoric sites and one historic site, which has since burned down, have been recorded in this area. This area was utilized in prehistoric times by the Fremont culture, and lithic scatter grannaries, and pictograph/petroglyph sites are known to exist in the area. The area was occupied later by the Ute and Shoshoni historic tribes, fur trappers and traders, and rancher-settlers. The Peregrine falcon and bald eagle have been noted in the unit. The protected bighorn sheep ranges in the eastern portion of the unit. Bobcat and mountain lion are also known to occur in the area.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eight comments concur with the BLM analysis that the area has supplemental values and listed those identified by BLM. One comment noted the unit did not have any supplemental values, but did not specifically comment on the values identified by BLM.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

The imprints of man (roads and ways) identified by the public comments were excluded due to maintenance and/or heavy use resulting in substantial loss of topsoil. A major effort would be required to return these imprints to a substantially unnoticeable condition. All imprints of man remaining in the unit are minor and can be returned to a substantially unnoticeable condition by either natural processes or by hand labor.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Seven comments stated that the few minor imprints of man in the unit are returning to a substantially unnoticeable condition through natural processes or could be easily rehabilitated by hand labor. Two comments stated reclamation was not possible without substantial work. After boundary adjustments, only minor imprints of man remain in the unit; thus, natural processes and hand labor would further minimize the impacts.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The Diamond Breaks inventory unit is a large tract of undeveloped land (35,380 acres) retaining its primeval character and influence, and without significant permanent improvements. The unit exhibits a high degree of naturalness with a diverse mixture of vegetation and a varied topographic relief. Because of the large size, rugged terrain, dense vegetation, abundant wildlife, and numerous vantage points, the unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The unit meets the criteria for wilderness study.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November, 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

One comment noted livestock grazing related conflicts. One comment referred to adjacent state lands.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Diamond Breaks
CO 010 214

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 19

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 23
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:
14 Personal Letters
Postcards
4 Public Comments Forms
1 Meetings
Phone Calls
Other

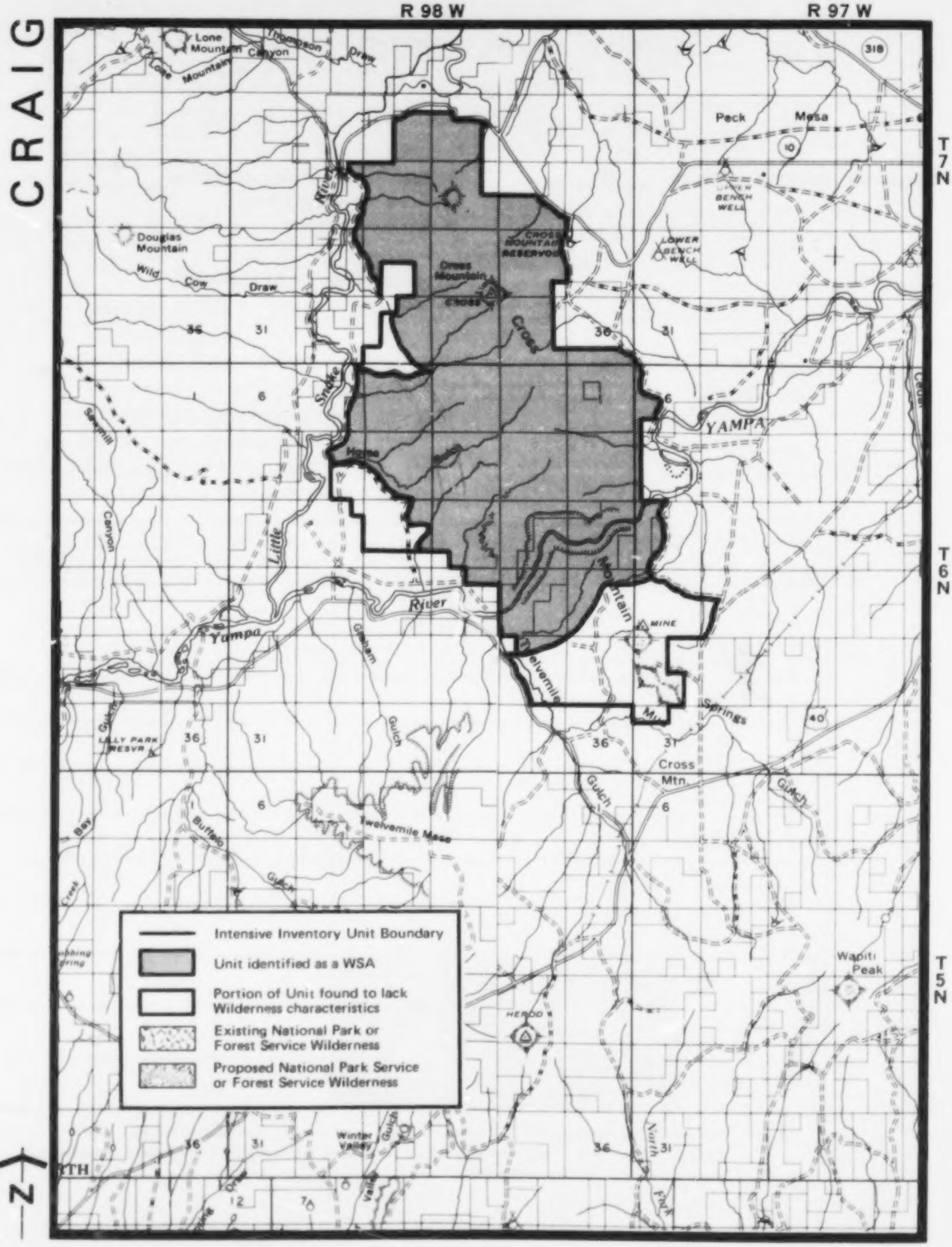
GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:
16 Colorado
1 Utah
2 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:
12 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
6 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	4			3		1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		1		1		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.			1	1		
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	8	5		11	1	1
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	9	1	2
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	6		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	1		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-010-230 Cross Mountain


CRAIG
R 98 W
R 97 W
T 7 N
T 6 N
T 5 N
Lone Mountain
Lone Mountain Canyon
Thompson Draw
Peck Mesa
318
10
Upper Bench Well
Lower Bench Well
Douglas Mountain
Wild Cow Draw
Cross Mountain
Cross Mountain Reservoir
Cross
Snake
River
Little Snake
Sawmill
Canyon
Yampa
River
Yampa
Mountain
Mine
Twelvemile
Springs
40
Lilly Park Resvr
Gulch
Cross Mtn.
Twelvemile Mesa
Buffalo
Bay
Gulch
Wapiti Peak
Herod
Winter Valley
North Fork
Cedar
36
31
6
12
7
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
N
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

CO-010-230
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

CROSS MOUNTAIN

CO-010-230

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 17,480 acres intensively inventoried
17,480 acres proposed as WSA in 2/1/80 recommendations
14,081 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: [✓ Yes] No

Additions ____ acres Deletions 3,399 acres
(as a result of public comments)

GENERAL LOCATION: Northwest Colorado (Moffat County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: A 19,940 acre unit was proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: As a result of public comments and a field check, the boundary was adjusted to exclude a maintained road. A 17,060 acre unit was intensively inventoried.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: The acreage of the unit was recalculated with an electronic planimeter and determined to be 17,480 acres. This unit was recommended as a Wilderness Study Area.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: This unit contains 14,081 acres of public land administered by BLM. There are three withdrawals in this unit. One of these is a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission powersite withdrawal. The Colorado River Water Conservation District has proposed a dam at the west end of Cross Mountain Canyon as a part of its Juniper-Cross Mountain Project. The unit is leased for grazing. Portions of the unit have oil and gas leases. Surrounding lands are a mixture of public and private lands.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Several comments stated that the unit was larger than 5,000 acres and of a manageable size. Several other comments suggested there was not 5,000 acres of land in the unit possessing outstanding wilderness values or that only the top of the mountain above 6,800 feet elevation qualified.

BLM made no attempt to delineate specific areas in a unit where outstanding opportunities or values were present. Throughout the inventory phase, boundaries were drawn along roads, property boundaries or other imprints. When other resource values are considered in the study phase, boundary adjustments may be necessary. The Cross Mountain unit exceeds the minimum requirement of 5,000 acres required for further study.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: Cross Mountain is an oblong, flat topped mass rising almost 2,000 feet above the flood plain of the Yampa River making it easily distinguishable as a landmark. The Yampa River has cut a deep gorge which is the focal point of the mountain. Erosion has worked on the mountain's east and west flanks exposing colorful rocky rims. There are several side canyons on both sides of the mountain in particular on the west side. The northeast side of the mountain consists of an abrupt, exposed face. Pockets of aspen and mountain shrubs are scattered around the unit especially on the eastern face. Pinyon-juniper vegetation dominates the rest of the unit.

Imprints of Man: After boundary adjustments, the imprints of man remaining in the unit (ways related primarily to grazing) are minor in nature and do not represent significant surface or vegetative disturbances.

Evaluation of Public Comments: A total of ninety-two comments specifically addressed this criteria. Forty-six comments generally concurred with the BLM analysis that the unit is in a natural condition. Twenty-four of these comments stated there was little evidence of man or imprints were minor. Other comments referred to the undisturbed condition of the unit and its natural beauty as a good place to feel and experience nature. One commenter, who has hiked the area extensively, stated, "...the vastness of the mountain and the powerful contrast of the canyon is a very dramatic representation of the forces of nature." Other remarks referred to the unmarred view in all directions, interesting burned areas and the overpowering feeling of being in a "western" wilderness. One commenter called the reported roads "rutted tracks" and found no regular use or maintenance.

Forty-six comments noted that parts of the unit are not natural. Of these comments, thirty-five stated that roads exist in the west side and thirty-nine comments noted a road exists in the southern portion of the unit. Fifteen comments noted an old copper mine, fourteen stated there were powerlines in the unit, eleven noted a stock pond, thirteen cited a fence, one commenter noted a burned area, nine commented on an area cleared by heavy equipment, two stated that there were homesteads and two said imprints related to grazing were found in the unit.

BLM conducted field checks based on specific information received through public comments. These field checks resulted in boundary adjustments which exclude all significant imprints of man from the unit. These boundary adjustments were made in the south and west portions of the unit to exclude roads, ways representing significant imprints of man, a powerline, a maintained stock reservoir, and an old fire line. The southern boundary adjustment also excluded the abandoned mine which by itself is not a significant imprint of man. It consists of three small pits which are well screened by the surrounding vegetation. Two small areas on the east side were also excluded to omit a fence and two short ways. All boundary adjustments are located in the lower outer edges of the unit and do not detract from the mountain core of the unit.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Due to the varied and rugged topography, numerous vantage points, varied vegetation, and location, the Cross Mountain unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. The highly dissected relief of the unit, as evidenced by the canyon and surrounding side canyons, offers opportunities for isolation. The top of Cross Mountain offers numerous vistas of the surrounding landscape as well as of Cross Mountain Canyon. These expansive views can enhance a feeling of solitude.

Evaluation of Public Comments: A total of ninety comments addressed this issue. Forty-six comments generally concurred with the BLM analysis that the unit does provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Many of the commenters have hiked in the area and cited the rugged, diverse topography and vegetation, including numerous side canyons and the pinyon-juniper forests which offer natural cover and concealment. Other comments mentioned the vistas of scenic grandeur and vastness of northwest Colorado. Several comments called the unit quiet giving a sense of being alone and providing a feeling of seclusion or insignificance.

Forty-four comments stated that the unit does not have outstanding opportunities for solitude. Twenty-two of these comments cited outside sights and sounds from traffic on Highway 40 to the south and other adjacent roads as reasons why solitude did not exist in the unit. Ten comments also noted that commercial airlines fly over the unit, thus inhibiting opportunities for solitude. Seven comments mentioned that outstanding opportunities were present in Cross Mountain Canyon but not in the remainder of the unit. Two other comments stated that roads and oil and gas exploration limited solitude.

BLM has not evaluated outside sights and sounds during the inventory phase unless they were determined to be extremely imposing (e.g., a coal fired generating plant immediately adjacent to the unit). Due to boundary adjustments resulting from imprints of man, a portion of the southern part of the unit has been excluded which eliminates the area where most of these outside sights and sounds could possibly be imposing. In addition, the topographic relief, the vegetative screening, and the size of the unit is sufficient to provide numerous opportunities to become truly isolated.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Cross Mountain Canyon is the core of the wilderness values in this unit. Floating of the Yampa River through the Canyon is limited and considered dangerous because of the numerous boulders in the river. At times other than high water, it is possible to hike through the canyon which is approximately three miles in length. The canyon itself provides interesting sightseeing opportunities due to its geology and the Yampa River. The Yampa River also offers fishing opportunities. Cross Mountain offers numerous vistas of the surrounding landscape including Douglas Mountain and Dinosaur National Monument to the west. The unit contains a variety of wildlife both big and small which provide opportunities for both hunting and viewing. A herd of bighorn sheep was reintroduced into the area in 1976. Golden eagle and prairie falcon nests have also been observed in the area. Overall, this unit provides a variety of primitive recreation opportunities; thus, the opportunities are considered to be outstanding.

Evaluation of Public Comments: A total of seventy-two comments addressed these opportunities. Fifty-two comments supported the BLM recommendation that the area does provide outstanding opportunities. From these comments over twenty different recreational activities were cited. Among these activities are hiking, camping, rockhounding, fishing, hunting, backpacking, cross country skiing, spelunking, photography, nature study, rafting, canyon exploration, numerous vistas, horseback riding, etc. Other comments stated that the opportunities were exceptional and one commenter states they are of "extraordinary quality."

Twenty comments stated that the unit did not have outstanding opportunities for recreation. Among the reasons given were scarcity of water, sheep and cattle grazing, limited winter sports and climbing opportunities, and the fact that the area is no different than any other area in the region. Three comments mentioned that the canyon was the only place where outstanding opportunities exist but are limited because of the rugged terrain. Based upon the public comments received, BLM's evaluation remains the same; overall, the unit provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. No specific information was given in the public comments which would change the evaluation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: Cross Mountain is habitat for Penstemon yampaensis which has been identified as a potential threatened and endangered plant species. Cross Mountain is a faulted anticline, asymmetrical, shaped by the tilt and upward fold on the south. There exists a great opportunity to learn about geologic origin from these features. The rock outcrops represent a span of about a billion years of geological history while the fossil bearing rocks represent a period of over 500 million years of time. Several of the more prevalent formations exposed on Cross Mountain are the Madison, Morgan and Weber formations with the colorful Triassic age Moenkopi and Chinle formations. Several archaeological sites have been identified, including many chips and other artifacts, which indicate the area was once inhabited by the Fremont Culture. Several caves have also been identified, but more research is needed. Threatened or endangered animals do exist within this unit. The squawfish has been identified in the Yampa River within the area, and the humpback chub is suspected to occur.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Fifty-three comments generally concurred with BLM's evaluation that the unit does contain supplemental values. Thirty of these comments noted the outstanding geologic features in the unit, especially those found in Cross Mountain Canyon. Sixteen comments referred to the variety of wildlife (bighorn sheep, elk, deer, antelope, raptors, etc.) and the presence of rare and endangered plants, animals, and fish. Cultural resources were mentioned by fourteen commenters citing numerous archaeological sites as well as Indian artifacts and chips scattered the length of the mountain. Other comments referred to the diverse vegetation, caves, excellent scenic values, fossils, and wild and scenic river qualities of the Yampa River.

Four comments disagreed, suggesting that the supplemental values were interesting but no different than many other areas or that the area need not be a wilderness to retain these value

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

The boundary adjustments made as a result of public comment excluded primarily maintained roads and associated ways. The old fire line in the southern portion of the unit is a wide swath through the pinyon-juniper and is highly visible. Major artificial reclamation and a considerable amount of time would be required to return this area to a natural condition.

After boundary adjustments, all imprints are determined to have a minimal impact and artificial rehabilitation is not necessary.

Evaluation of Public Comments: A total of sixty-two comments addressed this issue. Twenty-seven comments stated that all imprints were minor or substantially unnoticeable and need not be reclaimed or could easily be reclaimed through natural processes. Nine more comments noted the imprints were minor, screened from view, insignificant, were not present, or could be reclaimed in some cases but not all.

Twenty-four comments stated that reclamation was not possible. Seven of these comments stated that the arid climate was responsible and two cited expense as prohibitive. One comment stated that the area is affected by man's occupation to the extent that it would not currently pass the wilderness test.

BLM has conducted field checks based on specific information given through public comments addressing naturalness. This has resulted in boundary adjustments which eliminates all substantial imprints of man from the unit. Due to this action the unit remains in a natural condition and active reclamation would not be necessary.

RATIONALE FOR INDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS AREA:

The Cross Mountain unit is a large tract of undeveloped land retaining its primeval character and influence, and without significant permanent improvements. The area offers numerous opportunities for both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation and contains several supplemental values. This unit meets all of the criteria required for wilderness study.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

Sixteen comments stated that oil and gas or mineral leases exist in the area. Several of these comments also noted a potential for coal, oil and gas development. Six comments cited conflicts with grazing of livestock in the unit.

Sixty-five comments generally supported the proposed Juniper-Cross Mountain Dam Project and the resulting development of energy, recreation, water and irrigation. Many of these comments addressed the benefits of the proposed project and did not specifically address the wilderness characteristics of the unit. One comment stated that a Class I air quality designation would prohibit the development of energy resources. Finally, one comment referred to adjacent state lands. The Moffat County Comprehensive Plan lists the area as a water resource development area.

The BLM wilderness review process is divided into three major steps: 1) Inventory, 2) Study, 3) Recommendation to Congress. The decision contained in this document represents the end of the inventory phase. WSA's will now be studied for their suitability for wilderness designation. It is important to understand that WSA status does not mean the area is being recommended for wilderness. Further information on the study schedule for the Cross Mountain WSA can be obtained by contacting the BLM offices in Craig and Denver.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Cross Mountain
CO 010 230

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 149

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 156
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

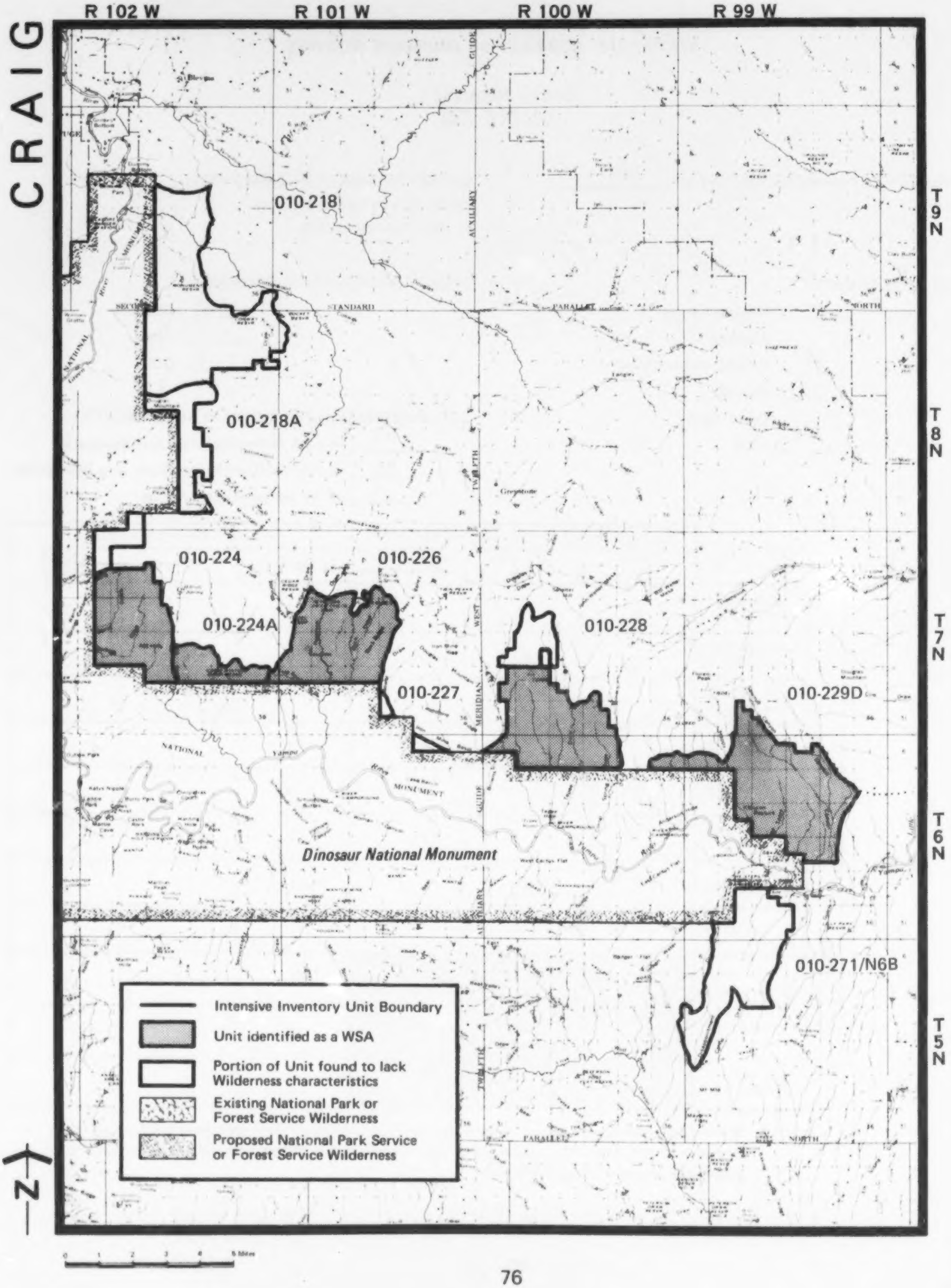
FORM OF COMMENTS:
50 Personal Letters
____ Postcards
68 Public Comments Forms
31 Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:
143 Colorado
2 Utah
4 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:
61 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
86 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
2 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	6			4	1	1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		6	1	7		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.		11		11		
	STATE GOVT.	2			2		
	FEDERAL GOVT.			1	1		
	INDIVIDUAL	53	69		118	1	3
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	55	2	4
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	86		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	2		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.


R 102 W
R 101 W
R 100 W
R 99 W
T 9 N
T 8 N
T 7 N
T 6 N
T 5 N
010-218
010-218A
010-224
010-226
010-224A
010-228
010-227
010-229D
010-271/N6B
Dinosaur National Monument
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
N
0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles

DINOSAUR ADJACENT-NORTHERN BOUNDARY

CO-010-224,224A,226,228,229D
(See Non-WSA Section, Craig District, For Units CO-010-218,218A,227,271/N6B)

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Units do not qualify as Wilderness Study Areas.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Units do qualify as Wilderness Study Areas.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 24,510 acres intensively inventoried (see individual acreages below)
0 acres proposed as WSA's in 2/1/80 recommendations
22,640 acres in five units identified as WSA's

224 - 4,340 acres (870 acres deleted from intensive inventory acreage)
224A - 1,320 acres
226 - 4,880 acres
228 - 5,200 acres (1,000 acres deleted from intensive inventory acreage)
229D - 6,900 acres

Total - 22,640 acres

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: X Yes ____ No

GENERAL LOCATION: Adjacent to the northern boundary of Dinosaur National Monument (Moffat County).

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: Nine units consisting of 43,420 acres proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: As a result of public comments and a field check, the northern boundary of Unit 224A was adjusted to the south to coincide with a previously unidentified road. Units N6B and 271 were combined into one unit. Nine units consisting of 39,680 acres were intensively inventoried.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: None of the nine units were recommended as Wilderness Study Areas.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: These five units contain 22,640 acres of public land administered by BLM. All the units are adjacent to a portion of the proposed wilderness within Dinosaur National Monument (DNM). These units are distributed along the Monument boundary in a pattern broken by private land and roads. The primary use of all nine units is grazing and big game hunting. Mining claims surround the mining operation on the northern boundary of Unit 226.

NATURALNESS.

Topography and Vegetation: These units are located upland from the Monument's river canyons along Douglas Mountain. They consist primarily of portions of ridges and draws. The elevations range from 5,000 to 8,000 feet. Scattered patches of pinyon-juniper with some broadleaf trees are found along the ridges. Ponderosa pine are also found on Douglas Mountain. Sagebrush and grasses are found in the draws and open areas. The individual units are described below:

Unit 224: This unit is characterized by hills and valleys. The topography along the western boundary is comprised of ridges and intervening valleys. Starvation Valley ends at the southern boundary of the unit. The unit contains the upper end of Warm Springs Draw, Burnt Gulch and several other minor drainages. All of these drainages continue into DNM and the Yampa River.

Unit 224A: This small unit consists primarily of ridge tops and intervening drainages. The unit is located on approximately the midpoint of these drainages due to a road which forms the northern boundary of the unit. The eastern portion of the unit consists primarily of a valley north of the ridge line along the Monument boundary. The Monument boundary generally follows a series of high points.

Unit 226: This unit contains portions of draws which drain into the Monument. Peterson Draw, Buck Draw, and Five Springs Draw are the major drainages. The upper ends of these drainages are north and west of the unit due to roads and private land which form the northern and western boundaries. As presently drawn, the Monument boundary generally follows a series of high points.

Unit 228: The southern portion of this unit contains the upper ends of draws which drain into the Monument. Teepee Draw, a major side drainage of the Yampa River, passes through the unit. As presently drawn, the Monument boundary generally follows a series of high ridge tops. The northern portion of the unit is a long, narrow north-south ridge which extends from the bulk of the unit.

Unit 229D: This unit consists primarily of the slopes and ridges of the southeastern end of Douglas Mountain. In the southern portion of the unit the Vale of Tears drains into an open area at the eastern end of DNM. Across the Yampa River to the southeast is the developed area of Deerlodge Park.

Imprints of man: The imprints of man found in these units are mostly related to grazing. The impact of these imprints is minor because they are relatively few in number when the units are considered individually and do not represent major surface or vegetative disturbances. Grazing and associated activities are still occurring on most of the adjacent Monument lands that have been proposed for wilderness. Under legislation passed in 1960, the National Park Service will phase out livestock grazing on most of the Monument lands. Imprints of man within the individual units are described below:

Unit 224: During a BLM field check, a road was identified in the northern portion of the unit. This road is the primary access road to Zenobia Basin inside the Monument. The road meets the definition used by BLM in the wilderness inventory. The northern boundary of the unit was adjusted south to this road isolating the extreme northern end of the unit. There is a way and three stock reservoirs in the upper end of Burnt Gulch. The remainder of the unit is generally free from man's imprint.

Unit 224A: No significant imprints of man are located within this unit.

Unit 226: This unit contains three ways, two short fence lines, and a pond all associated with grazing. There are old mineral exploration pits in the NE portion of the unit. These imprints are all minor in nature and do not detract significantly from the overall natural appearance of the unit.

Unit 228: There is a way in Browns Draw in the western portion of the unit. The northern boundary was adjusted to the south to exclude a timber cutting area and the narrow finger extending from the bulk of the unit. After the boundary adjustment, the unit is in a substantially natural condition. The Monument boundary is fenced from the east for approximately one and one-half miles.

Unit 229D: The unit contains short ways, stock ponds, and short fence lines. These imprints are minor in nature resulting in an overall natural appearance for the unit. The eastern boundary of the unit was adjusted to the west due to misplacement of the boundary road.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Seventeen comments addressed the imprints of man. Sixteen of these comments generally concurred with the BLM analysis that the units are in a natural condition. One comment stated that Unit 226 had roads and other traces of man that cannot be erased. No specific location information was provided. According to the information gathered during the intensive inventory, only minor imprints (ways, range improvements, and mineral exploration pits) remain in Unit 226.

Fifteen comments stated that these units are physiographic continuations of features of the proposed wilderness in DNM. Because the public comment emphasized the physiographic relationship of these units to DNM, BLM conducted additional field analysis. Additional photos that depict this relationship as well as imprints of man are in the inventory files in Craig and Denver. BLM's assessment is that these five units are continuations of physiographic features of adjoining Monument lands.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

The opportunities for solitude in the units themselves are not outstanding due primarily to small size, awkward configurations created by intervening private lands and roads, and limited vegetative and topographic screening. However, when the units are considered with adjoining DNM lands proposed for wilderness, there is sufficient acreage and screening to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The numerous drainages provide for movement between the Monument and these upland units. These units are continuations of the Monument's topography and vegetation.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Three comments stated that Unit 229D does not have outstanding opportunities due to size, proximity to the development in Deerlodge Park, and various activities taking place in the units. When considered with adjoining Monument lands, Unit 229D is of sufficient size to provide outstanding opportunities. Sights and sounds outside the unit were not assessed during the inventory. There are no activities in the Deerlodge Park area that would be extremely imposing upon the unit in terms of solitude.

Nineteen comments stated that outstanding opportunities are present in all five units. Most of these comments addressed the units collectively and generally cited contiguity to DNM, naturalness of the units, and continuation of the Monument's landforms as reasons why these units provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. They further stated that these units enhance the values present in DNM, and are themselves enhanced by the Monument's proposed wilderness. Based upon additional field evaluation, it was determined that these units contain continuations of adjoining landforms in the Monument and do have sufficient acreage for solitude when combined with the adjoining Monument lands.

Two comments stated that during the summer when the Monument's river canyons are heavily used, the upland areas of the Monument and these adjoining units provide a refuge for solitude. Two comments also said they had encountered no other people while on an extended trip in the area. Because of the lack of natural barriers to movement, the potential to find a "refuge for solitude" on these upland areas is present. Present use of the units was not evaluated in determining the opportunities for solitude.

Finally, the National Park Service (NPS) stated that they believe the upland areas outside the canyon core have wilderness characteristics in their own right. No specific information on the wilderness values of these lands was provided. The NPS supported further wilderness study for all units adjacent to DNM's northern boundary. These five units have been determined to qualify as WSA's (see non-WSA section, Craig District, for a discussion of three units adjacent to the northern boundary that were determined to not qualify as WSA's).

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE, UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Historically, hunting has been the primary recreational activity of the units themselves. As hunting is not allowed in the Monument, this activity is confined to the public lands outside DNM. Hunting and related activities would continue to be the primary recreational opportunities in these units. Other activities that could take place in these units include backpacking, horseback riding, and scenic viewing. Because of the topography along the Monument boundary, few of the high points in the units provide vistas of the river canyons. There are no supplemental values in the five units which would enhance the recreational opportunities.

The primary recreational opportunities in the Monument are centered around the river canyons. These canyons provide outstanding boating, scenic viewing, and camping. Opportunities for hiking and related activities do exist on the Monument lands between the canyons and the BLM units. Only in conjunction with the Monument do these units have outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.

Evaluation of Public Comments: One comment stated that Unit 226 does not have outstanding opportunities due to lack of water and other public attractions. A second comment stated that it is unlikely that opportunities in Unit 229D exist which do not require facilities or motorized equipment. The comment also cited the proximity of the developments at Deerlodge Park to these units. The potential for non-wilderness types of recreation will be assessed during the study phase. There are no activities in the Deerlodge Park area that would be extremely imposing on visitors using Unit 229D.

Seventeen comments stated that outstanding opportunities are present in all of these units. Most of these comments generally cited the same reasons given for solitude (i.e., contiguity to DNM, naturalness of the units, and continuation of the Monument's landforms). They further stated that these units enhance the values present in DNM, and are themselves enhanced by the Monument's proposed wilderness. Four comments specifically stated that these units were ideal for hiking and backpacking. Other activities identified included birdwatching, photography, scenic viewing and cross-country skiing. BLM re-evaluated the units and determined that they have outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation when considered with the adjoining Monument.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

These units all serve as a hunting area for the endangered Peregrine falcon, but no nesting sites have been recorded. No cultural or historic sites have been recorded in these units. Seven comments addressed these values. One commentor stated he had no knowledge of any supplemental values in Unit 229D. Six comments stated that supplemental values were present. One of these comments said the area is uniquely beautiful and that fragile desert ecosystems need to be preserved. One comment said these units have values in combination with DNM but provided no specific information. Another comment cited the diversity of wildlife. Finally, one comment stated that the area has incredibly eroded sandstone and faulting, but provided no specific location information.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

After boundary adjustments, all imprints within these five units are minor in character and active rehabilitation is not necessary. Four comments generally concurred with the BLM analysis. One comment stated that Unit 226 did not have reclamation potential but provided no specific information.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFYING THESE UNITS AS WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS:

Public comment resulted in a re-evaluation of the Dinosaur adjacent units. These five units contain continuations of the Monument's landforms. Due to lack of topographic barriers, it is possible to travel between these units and DNM. When considered with the adjoining Monument, these units provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation and will be studied further.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review process, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concern will be retained for these future land use decisions.

One comment stated the value of mineral resources in Unit 226 outweighs the "tourist value" of the area.

The NPS suggested that BLM lands dropped during the initial inventory be reconsidered as part of a comprehensive approach to wilderness in the area. It is BLM policy that lands dropped during the initial inventory because they failed to meet the criteria of size, roadless, and naturalness will not be brought back into the wilderness review process. Lands that were dropped from wilderness consideration during the initial inventory have been officially released from further wilderness consideration and will be managed under BLM's general management authorities and subject to standard environmental protection procedures.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Adjacent to Dinosaur National Monument
North Boundary
CO 010 218-271/N6B

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 42

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 73
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:
39 Personal Letters
Postcards
3 Public Comments Forms
Meetings
Phone Calls
Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:
38 Colorado
Utah
4 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:
37 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
4 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # No Recommendation Given

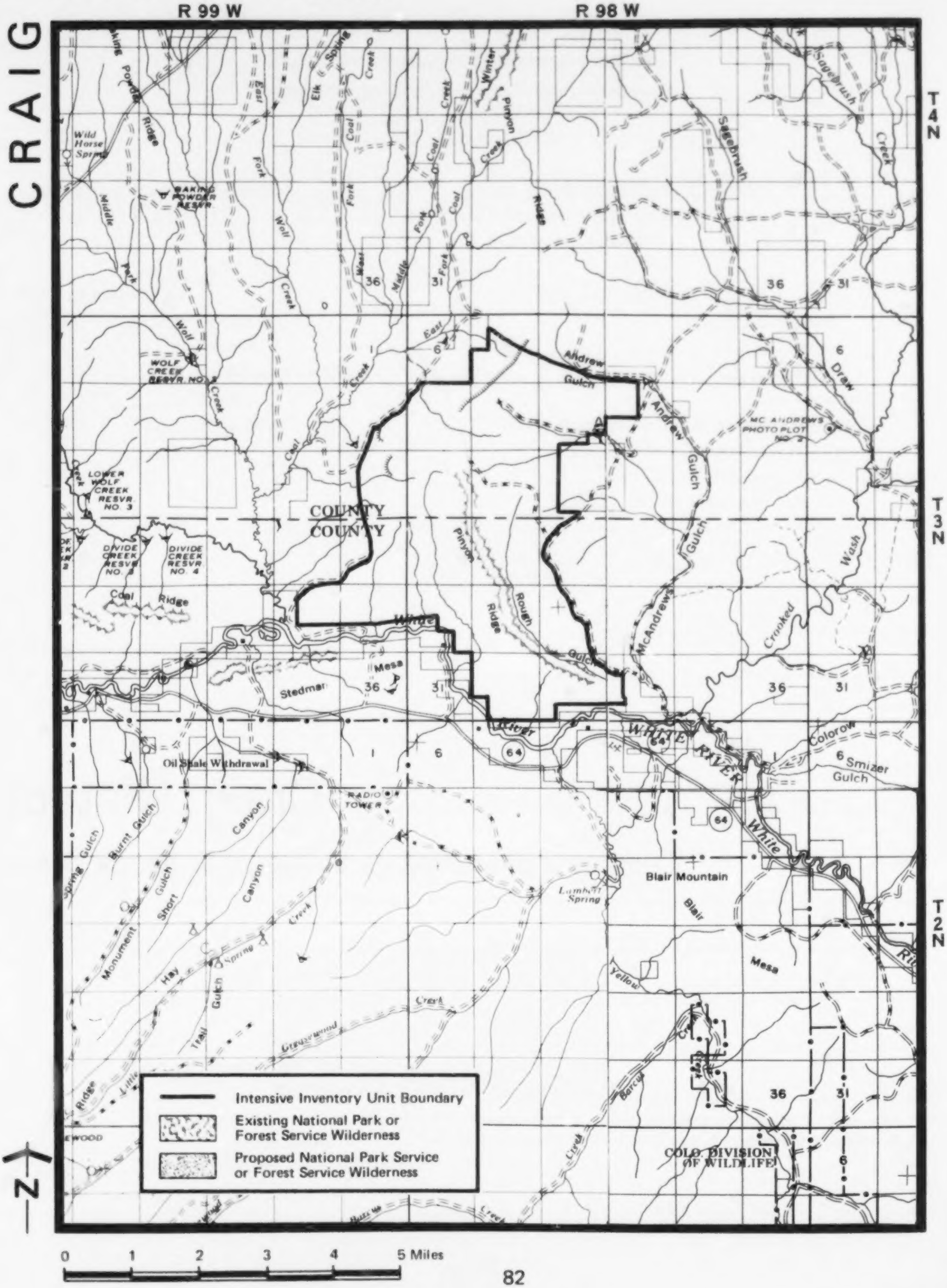
		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	5			4		1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS						
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.	1			1		
	FEDERAL GOVT.	1			1		
	INDIVIDUAL	29	4	1	31		3
	OTHER	1					
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	33		4
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	4		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	1		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

Craig District

Units not identified as Wilderness Study Areas

CO-010-006B Pinyon Ridge


R 99 W
R 98 W
T 4 N
T 3 N
T 2 N
CRAIG
Wild Horse Spring
Baking Powder Ridge
Baking Powder Resvr
Middle Park
Wolf Creek
Wolf Creek Resvr No. 2
Lower Wolf Creek Resvr No. 3
Divide Creek Resvr No. 3
Divide Creek Resvr No. 4
Coal Ridge
East Fork
Elk Spring Creek
Coal Creek
West Fork
Middle Fork
Winter Creek
Pinyon Ridge
Sagebrush Creek
Andrew Gulch
Draw
MC Andrews Photo Plot No. 2
McAndrews Gulch
Crooked Wash
County
County
Pinyon Ridge
Rough Gulch
Stedman Mesa
White River
64
Colorow
Smizer Gulch
Oil Shale Withdrawal
Radio Tower
Blair Mountain
Blair Mesa
Lambert Spring
Yellow Creek
Spring Gulch
Burnt Gulch
Monument Gulch
Short Gulch
Canyon
Hay Gulch
Spring Creek
Trail Gulch
Greasewood Creek
Little Ridge
Barcus Creek
Colo. Division of Wildlife
36
31
1
6
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
N
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

CO-010-0068
Area Not Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

PINYON RIDGE

CO-010-0068

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wildernes Study Area and will be released from further wilderness study.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 8,778 acres intensively inventoried (see inventory history)
0 acres proposed as WSA in 2/1/80 recommendations
0 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____ Yes __X__ No

GENERAL LOCATION: Fifty miles west of Craig beween Highways 40 and 64 (Moffat and Rio Blanco Counties).

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Intensive Inventory 8/78: Because this unit was in a Special Project Area, an accelerated initial/intensive inventory was completed prior to the initiation of the Bureau-wide inventory. A unit containing 17,068 acres was identified.

Proposed WSA Decision 8/31/79: Additional intensive field study during the summer of 1979 determined that the northern half of the unit was significantly impacted and therefore lacked naturalness. The boundary was adjusted accordingly. Following the public comment period, 8,778 acres were proposed as a WSA.

2/1/80: Additional intensive field study during the fall of 1979 resulted in a re-evaluation of the unit. The boundary was adjusted further to exclude a pipeline resulting in a final acreage of 8,353 acres. It was determined that the remainder of the unit does not meet the criteria of naturalness and outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. The area was not recommended as a WSA.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: The Pinyon Ridge unit contains approximately 8,353 acres of contiguous public land. The surrounding lands are predominantly public land with private land to the south along the White River and scattered private and state lands around the remainder of the unit. The unit has grazing and oil and gas leases.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The unit is characterized by rolling to occasionally steep hills. The dominant feature is Pinyon Ridge which runs the length of the unit (approximately six miles). The western side of Pinyon Ridge is a steep and abrupt slope. Vegetation is primarily pinyon-juniper.

Imprints of Man: Imprints of man in the form of past and present oil and gas and grazing activity can be found throughout the unit. The cumulative effect of these imprints (ways, reservoirs, fences, seismic trail) make it difficult to escape evidence of man's activities. Because these imprints are distributed throughout the unit, man's work is substantially noticeable. The unit does not meet the naturalness criteria required for wilderness study.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Nine comments addressed the naturalness of the unit. Three comments generally concurred with the BLM analysis. Six comments stated the unit meets the naturalness criteria. Three of these comments stated that the intensive inventory documentation (i.e., photos) was not adequate to demonstrate a lack of naturalness. These comments noted that the imprints documented were mostly on the periphery of the unit and questioned their significance.

BLM conducted a field check in June 1980 to re-evaluate the naturalness of the unit and obtain additional photo documentation. As a result, the original evaluation and recommendation are determined to be valid. The additional photo documentation is available for review in the BLM offices in Denver and Meeker.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. The rugged terrain of Pinyon Ridge in effect divides the unit into two relatively small areas. The steep topography of the western face of Pinyon Ridge, the numerous ways throughout the unit, and the relatively small area available to experience solitude in the unit would increase the opportunities for encountering others while in the unit. These factors taken cumulatively would restrict the opportunities for being alone or remote from others.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Nine comments addressed these opportunities. Two generally supported the BLM analysis. Seven comments stated that outstanding opportunities are present. Three of these comments stated that the topography of unit with its many draws provided sufficient screening to afford outstanding opportunities.

BLM recognizes that opportunities for solitude are present but not outstanding. The intensive inventory determined that there are significant limitations on the opportunities to become truly isolated while in the unit. The public comments did not provide specific information that would result in a change of the conclusion reached about these limitations.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE, UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. Hunting is the primary recreational opportunity in the unit due to the wildlife populations in the region. When considered in a regional context, the hunting opportunities are not unique or outstanding. The steep western face of Pinyon Ridge and the numerous ways throughout the unit would confine movement within the unit. The steep topography also limits the area available for recreational activities. Because of the limited range of recreational activities and the confining topography, the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE, UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Evaluation of Public Comments: Ten comments addressed these opportunities. Two comments generally supported the BLM analysis. Eight comments stated that outstanding opportunities were present. Three of these comments stated that a variety of primitive recreational activities (big game hunting, camping, backpacking, scenic viewing, and hiking) could take place in the unit. One comment also pointed out that lack of water and comparisons should not be used in evaluating the recreation opportunities.

BLM recognizes that opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are present but not outstanding. BLM does not consider lack of water by itself a significant reason to determine that the recreation opportunities are not outstanding. While the BLM inventory procedures do not permit comparisons among inventory units, consideration of the unit's recreation opportunities in a regional context as one of several factors is allowable. The intensive inventory determined that there are significant limitations on the opportunities to pursue primitive and unconfined recreation. The public comment did not provide specific information that would result in a change of the conclusions reached about the cumulative effect of these limitations.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: Pinyon Ridge is a dominant geologic feature in the area. The ridge is approximately fifteen miles in length running north to south. About half of the Ridge is located within the unit. The steep western face of the Ridge provides a stark contrast to the low lying basin area to the west. A large prairie dog community straddles the western boundary of the unit at the foot of Pinyon Ridge.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Five comments generally concurred with the BLM analysis. In addition to the values identified by BLM, big game and other widlife were also mentioned. The presence of supplemental values alone does not qualify an area as a WSA.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

To rehabilitate the numerous ways and seismic trail would require a major effort throughout the entire unit.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Two comments stated the intensive inventory documentation of imprints was not sufficient to determine the reclamation potential. BLM has gathered additional documentation supporting the fact that the imprints of man in this unit are significant and reclamation would require a major effort.

RATIONALE FOR NOT IDENTIFYING AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The Pinyon Ridge unit is a relatively small tract of public land. Throughout the unit there is substantial evidence of past and present oil and gas and grazing activity. The steep topography and numerous ways enhance the opportunities for encountering others and restrict the range of recreational activities and freedom of movement. The unit is determined not to meet the naturalness criteria and not to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation; therefore, it does not qualify as a WSA.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. Since this area has not been identified as a WSA, comments addressing these concerns will be utilized by BLM in future land use planning.

One comment stated that coal underlies the area and that the unit has grazing leases.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Pinyon Ridge
CO 010 006B

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 17

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 21
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:
14 Personal Letters
____ Postcards
2 Public Comments Forms
1 Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

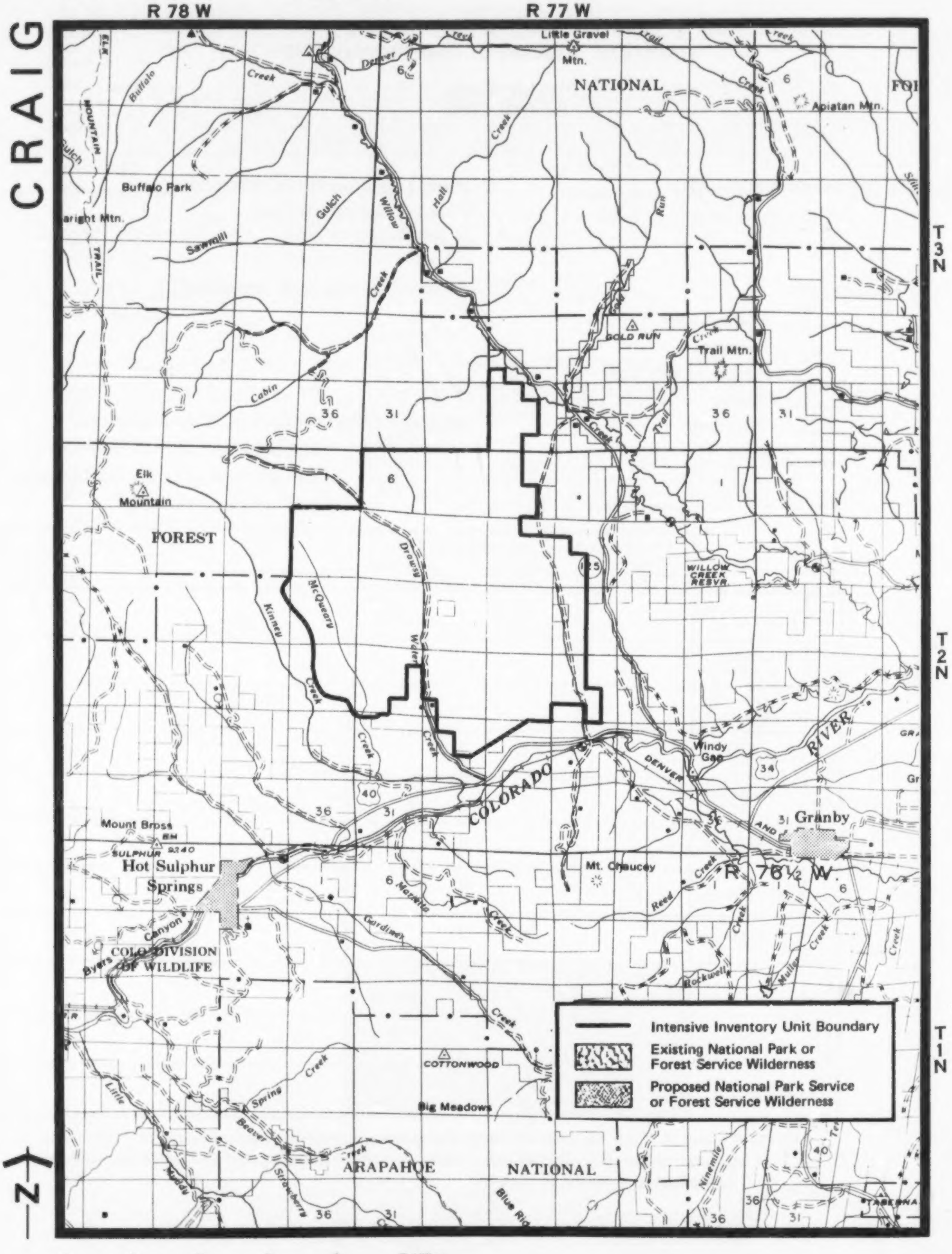
GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:
11 Colorado
1 Utah
5 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:
13 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
3 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	5			2	1	2
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		2		2		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.	1		1	2		
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	7	1		5		3
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	7	1	5
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	3		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	1		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-010-168 Drowsy Water


R 78 W
R 77 W
T 3 N
T 2 N
T 1 N
Little Gravel Mtn.
NATIONAL
Apiatan Mtn.
Buffalo Park
Sawmill Gulch
Willow Creek
Hall Creek
Gold Run
GOLD RUN
Trail Mtn.
Cabin Creek
Elk Mountain
FOREST
McQueary Creek
Kinney Creek
Drowsy Water Creek
WILLOW CREEK RESVR.
Windy Gap
COLORADO RIVER
DENVER AND
Granby
Mount Bross
SULPHUR
Hot Sulphur Springs
Byers Canyon
COLO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
Mt. Chaucey
Reed Creek
Gardiner Creek
Rockwell Creek
Muddy Creek
R 76½ W.
Spring Creek
COTTONWOOD
Big Meadows
Beaver Creek
Strawberry Creek
Blue River
ARAPAHOE
NATIONAL
Ninemile Creek
TABERNASH
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
N
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

CO-010-168
Area Not Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

DROWSY WATER

CO-010-168

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area and will be released from further wilderness study.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 9,870 acres intensively inventoried
0 acres proposed as WSA in 2/1/80 recommendations
0 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____ Yes __X__ No

GENERAL LOCATION: Northeast of Hot Sulphur Springs (Grand County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: An 11,100 acre unit was proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: As a result of a field check, the boundary was adjusted to exclude clear-cut areas and narrow fingers of public land. A 9,870 acre unit was intensively inventoried.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: This unit was not recommended as a Wilderness Study Area.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: This unit includes 9,870 acres of land administered by the Bureau of Land Management. Surrounding lands are Arapahoe National Forest to the north, BLM to the west, and a mixture of public and private lands on the south and east. The Forest Service did not identify a roadless area adjacent to this unit during the Rare II process.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The Drowsy Water Unit exhibits a mesa topography with flat tops, steep side slopes and narrow valleys. The perennial streams of Drowsy Water and Smith Creeks flow north to south through the unit. Three different vegetative types include lodgepole pine, sagebrush and aspen stands.

Imprints of Man: The most significant imprints of man are fourteen miles of ways that dissect the unit and two miles of an abandoned irrigation ditch. The ways were graded by heavy equipment with numerous cuts and fills all in evidence on the landscape. The presence of three ways and an irrigation ditch represent significant evidence of man's imprint on the naturalness of this unit. The rehabilitation potential is low due to the large volume of topsoil and parent material that has been displaced.

Evaluation of Public Comment: One comment addressed the naturalness of the unit. It said that if current uses are creating impacts, these uses could be terminated and the area could receive further consideration. No specific information was provided. The fourteen miles of ways and other imprints represent a significant cumulative impact on the unit's naturalness. Their reclamation potential is low; therefore, the unit is determined not to meet the naturalness criteria.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Some opportunities for solitude can be found in the forest vegetative cover in the northern half of the unit. These opportunities are limited due to the cumulative impacts of existing ways, open sageland, and steep mesa sides. These would tend to concentrate users, thus reducing the opportunities to become isolated from others while in the unit; therefore, the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Evaluation of Public Comment: Three comments addressed the opportunities for solitude. Two comments noted the unit is shielded from Highway 125 by a ridge. One of these comments also stated that the rugged terrain and trees assure opportunities for solitude. This comment also suggested that the ways could be closed to vehicular taffic resulting in solitude. One comment said the area is an isolated unit providing little opportunity for solitude.

Opportunities for solitude are present but are considered limited due to the ways, lack of vegetation, and steep mesa sides. Opportunities for solitude are primarily evaluated in terms of the unit's physical characteristics. Current uses such as motorized vehicles on existing ways would not be considered as an impact on future opportunities to experience solitude if the area were to be managed as wilderness. Because of the physical constraints on the opportunities to experience solitude, this unit does not meet this criteria.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE, UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: The Drowsy Water Unit offers limited opportunities for hiking and backpacking due to the availability of deer, elk and other wildlife species, and presence of scenic vistas. However, the fourteen miles of ways would be conducive to a "confined" experience and the forty percent sagebrush cover offers little or no primitive recreational opportunity. When considered with the surrounding areas in the Middle Park region, the recreational opportunities in this unit are not unique or outstanding.

Evaluation of Public Comment: Three comments addressed these opportunities. One comment said the rugged terrain, trees, and size provided opportunities for multi-day hiking and widely dispersed recreation. Another comment said the primary use of the area was for big game hunting but that the area was readily accessible for hiking, hunting, backpacking and horseback riding but not for water related activities. The third comment said the area is an isolated unit with little water and limited public access.

The opportunities for an outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation experience are considered limited due to relatively small size, lack of vegetation in this portion, and the ways. The ability of this unit to sustain multi-day uses is considered marginal. The unit contains no supplemental values which are unique or outstanding and is isolated from adjoining National Forest lands by non-wilderness uses.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: This unit is within two hours drive of Denver, Colorado and one-half hour drive of Rocky Mountain National Park. Other than this, the Drowsy Water Unit does not contain any significant supplemental values that would add to its ability to qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

Evaluation of Public Comment: Three comments addressed the supplemental values of the unit. One comment noted the variety of wildlife in the area. Another comment said the unit is close to Denver and that Highways 40 and 125 would serve as excellent access routes. The third comment said the unit represents the wilderness of the pre-white man days in Middle Park.

The presence of supplemental values does not qualify a unit as a WSA without meeting first the other criteria.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

Area Description: The fourteen miles of ways have a significant impact on the area's potential for rehabilitating naturally. The ways were constructed with heavy machinery approximately ten to fifteen years ago with numerous cuts and fills located throughout the system. All other imprints of man in the unit can be returned to a substantially unnoticeable condition by natural processes or by hand labor.

Evaluation of Public Comment: Two comments addressed this issue. One noted that the significance of an imprint depends largely on where the viewer comes from (i.e., rural Americans vs. urban Americans). The second comment said that if ORV use were eliminated, the area would readily return to a natural condition by natural processes aided by limited hand labor.

The ways represent a significant imprint that would not reclaim in the near future without a major effort.

RATIONALE FOR NOT IDENTIFYING THIS UNIT AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The presence of fourteen miles of ways significantly detracts from the unit's naturalness. The rehabilitation potential is low due to the large volume of topsoil and parent material that has been displaced. The opportunities for solitude are limited due to the cumulative impacts of existing ways, open sageland and steep mesa sides. There are some opportunities for day hiking, hunting and other dispersed recreational opportunities. However, these are not considered as outstanding in degree and variety. The unit meets only the size criteria; therefore, it does not qualify for further study.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. Since this area has not been identified as a WSA, comments addressing these concerns will be utilized by BLM in future land use planning. One commenter was disappointed because the unit will now remain the private ORV domain of adjoining dude ranches and others blocking access to the unit.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Drowsy Water
CO 010 168

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 4

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 4
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

2 Personal Letters
___ Postcards
2 Public Comments Forms
___ Meetings
___ Phone Calls
___ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

4 Colorado
___ Utah
___ Other

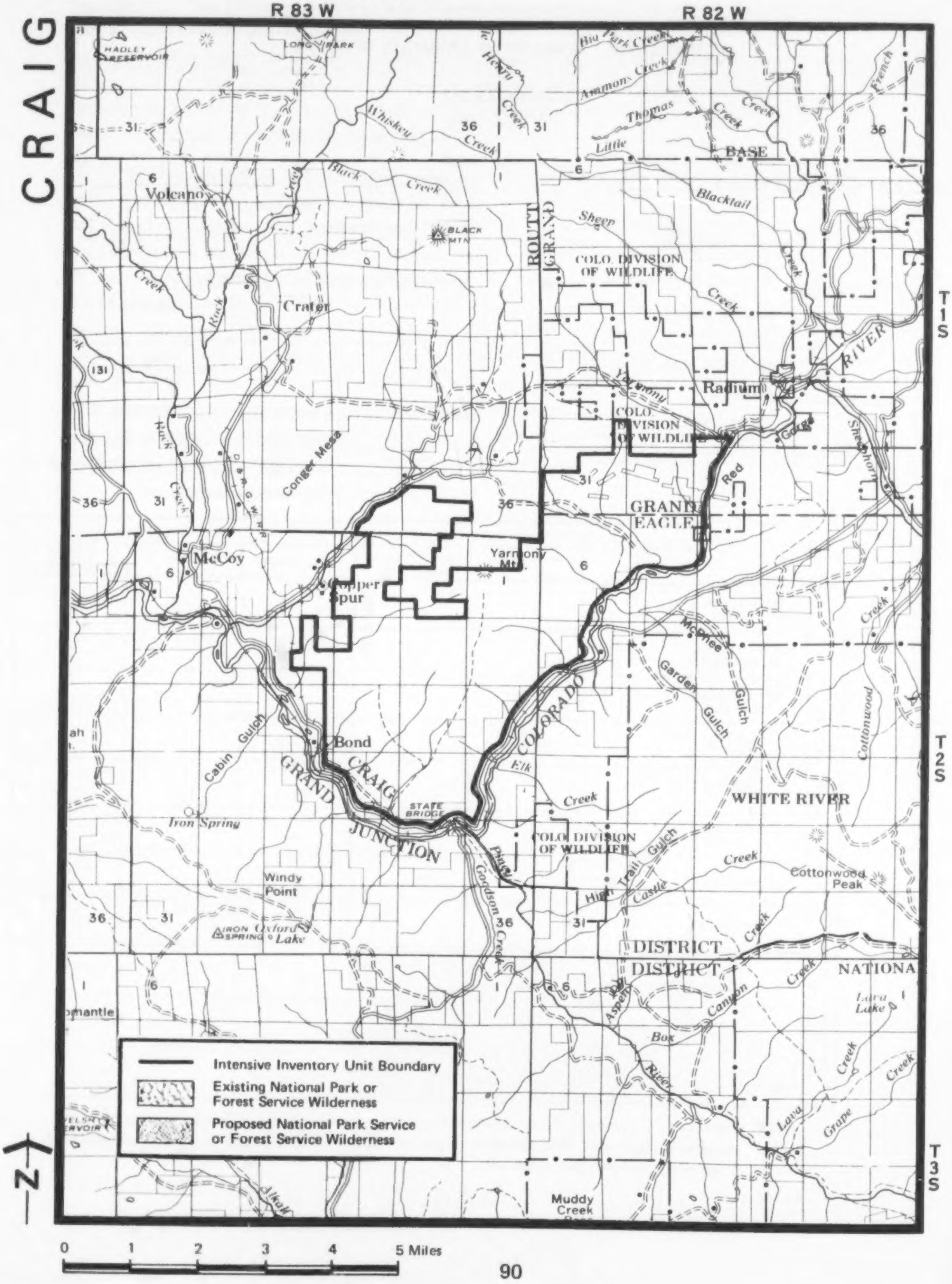
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

3 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
___ # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.						
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS						
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.			1	1		
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	3			3		
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	3		
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨			
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	1		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-010-178 Yarmony Mountain


R 83 W
R 82 W
CRAIG
T 1 S
T 2 S
T 3 S
N
HADLEY RESERVOIR
LONG PARK
Big Park Creek
Ammons Creek
Thomas
Little
Creek
Whiskey Creek
Henry Creek
French
BASE
Volcano
Black Creek
BLACK MTN
Blacktail
Sheep
ROUTT
GRAND
COLO. DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
Crater
Rock Creek
Radium
RIVER
Conger Mesa
D.R.G.W. R.R.
GRAND EAGLE
Red
Yarmony Mtn.
McCoy
Copper Spur
McGhee
Garden Gulch
Cottonwood
COLORADO
Bond
Cabin Gulch
GRAND CRAIG JUNCTION
STATE BRIDGE
Elk Creek
WHITE RIVER
Iron Spring
Piney
Godson Creek
High Trail Gulch
Castle Creek
Cottonwood Peak
Windy Point
IRON SPRING
Oxford Lake
DISTRICT
NATIONA
Aspen
Canyon
Box
River
Lava Lake
Lava
Grape Creek
Muddy Creek
Alkali
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

CO-010-178
Area Not Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

YARMONY MOUNTAIN

CO-010-178

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area and will be released from further wilderness study.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 9,590 acres intensively inventoried
0 acres proposed as WSA in 2/1/80 recommendations
0 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ______Yes __X__No

GENERAL LOCATION: North of State Bridge (Grand, Eagle, and Routt Counties)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: A 9,750 acre unit was proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: The boundary was adjusted to exclude a major line of the Denver-Rio Grande Railroad that was inadvertantly included in the original proposal. A 9,590 acre unit was intensively inventoried.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: The intensive inventory report and proposed Wilderness Study Area publication dated February 1, 1980, incorrectly reported the acreage of this unit as 8,590 acres. The unit was not recommended as a Wilderness Study Area.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: This unit includes 9,590 acres of public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management. Several mining claims occur throughout the unit. Surrounding lands are predominantly BLM with scattered private and state lands. The unit has three grazing leases and several oil and gas leases.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: This unit may be characterized as having a mesa-like topography with numerous small gulches radiating from the mesa top. Due to the private land patterns to the north, the unit contains only portions of the mesa tops which form Yarmony Mountain. One side of Yarmony Canyon occurs in the unit with an elevation differential of 1,700 feet in a one-half mile horizontal distance. Pinyon-juniper, sagebrush and grasses dominate the landscape. The mesa tops are very open with minimal vegetative screening.

Imprints of Man: Twelve miles of ways which dissect the unit and numerous range improvements (springs and fences) detract significantly (cumulative impact considered) from the apparent naturalness of the Yarmony Mountain Unit. These ways have been heavily used resulting in loss of parent material due to erosion. They represent a significant visual contrast on the landscape. Consequently, this unit does not meet the naturalness criteria required for further wilderness study.

Evaluation of Public Comment: No comments addressed the naturalness of the unit.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: The Yarmony Unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude due to the following factors: (a) the restrictive nature of the topography, (b) the lack of vegetation on the mesa tops and (c) the configuration in the north resulting from private land ownership. The steep slopes would tend to concentrate visitors on the mesa tops where the lack of vegetation would increase the chances of encountering others or being aware of the presence of others. The private land pattern in the north would further tend to concentrate visitors on the southern mesa top, thus reducing the opportunities to be isolated from others. While some opportunities for solitude may exist in the small drainages and pinyon-juniper stands, overall the unit does not provide outstanding opportunities to experience solitude in a wilderness setting.

Evaluation of Public Comments: No comments addressed the opportunities for solitude in the unit.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE, UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: The primitive recreational opportunities of the Yarmony Mountain area are limited due to the confining nature of the topograhy and configuration caused by private land in the northern portion. The unit does offer opportunities for wildlife observation, hiking, backpacking, horseback riding and general sightseeing. These activies would be limited in variety and extent due to the steep sloped topography and the intruding private lands in the north. Most recreational activity would be confined to a relatively small area on the southern mesa top. Overall, the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Evaluation of Public Comments: No comments addressed these opportunities.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: The Yarmony Mountain Unit does not contain any significant supplemental values that would add to its ability to qualify as a wilderness study area. No comments addressed supplemental values.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

The twelve miles of ways have a significant impact on the area's potential for rehabilitating naturally. Rehabilitation would require substantial work by heavy equipment to replace the parent material and topsoil and to reseed the ways. Other imprints such as fences and spring improvements can be returned to a substantially unnoticeable condition by natural process or by hand labor. No comments addressed this issue.

RATIONALE FOR NOT IDENTIFYING THIS UNIT AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The impacts on the unit's naturalness as well as the limited and confined nature of the unit's opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation do not qualify this area for further study. There are twelve miles of ways and numerous range improvements (cumulative impact considered) that detract significantly from the apparent naturalness of the Yarmony Mountain Unit. The potential for solitude is limited due to mesa topography, linear configuration and private land intrusions. Recreation opportunities are limited in degree and variety to such experiences as day hiking and general sightseeing. Freedom of movement is constrained by the steep mesa sides and linear configuration.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. Since this area has not been identified as a WSA, comments addressing these concerns will be utilized by BLM in future land use planning.

Two comments supported continued multiple use management of this area.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Yarmony Mountain
CO 010 178

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 2

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 3
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

2 Personal Letters
____ Postcards
____ Public Comments Forms
____ Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

2 Colorado
____ Utah
____ Other

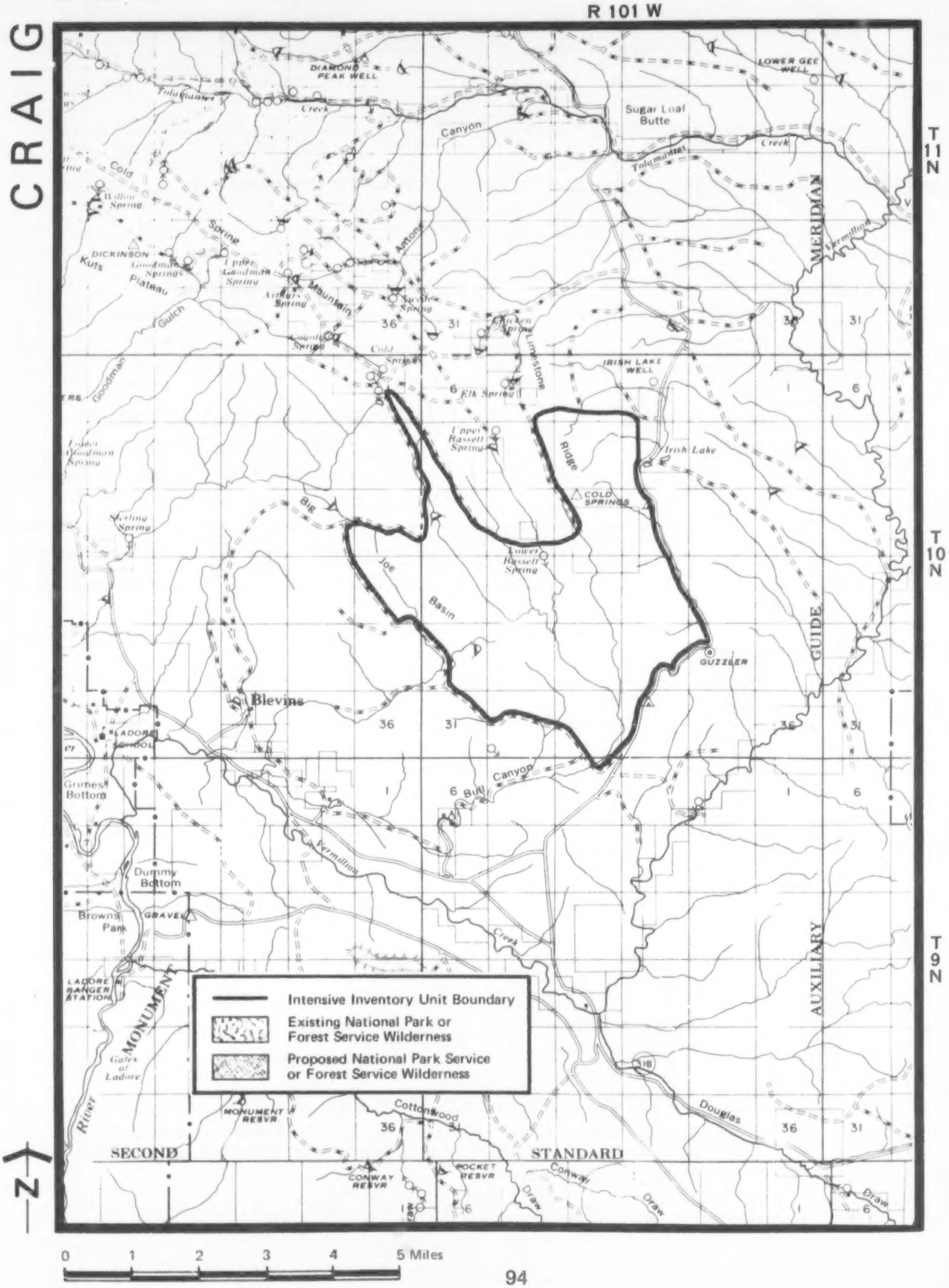
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

0 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.						
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		1		1		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.			1	1		
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL						
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨			
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	1		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	1		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-010-208E Limestone


R 101 W
T 11 N
T 10 N
T 9 N
DIAMOND PEAK WELL
LOWER GEE WELL
Sugar Loaf Butte
Tolamantes Creek
Canyon
Cold Spring
Willow Spring
DICKINSON
Kuts Plateau
Goodman Springs
Upper Goodman Spring
Mountain
Arthurs Spring
Antone
Gulch
Goodman
Cold Spring
Elk Spring
Chicken Spring
Limestone
Ridge
IRISH LAKE WELL
Irish Lake
Upper Bassett Spring
COLD SPRINGS
Lower Bassett Spring
Lower Goodman Spring
Sterling Spring
Big
Joe
Basin
GUZZLER
Blevins
LADORE SCHOOL
Grimes Bottom
Bull Canyon
Vermillion
Dummy Bottom
Browns Park
GRAVEL
LADORE RANGER STATION
Gates of Ladore
River
MONUMENT
MONUMENT RESVR
Creek
Cottonwood
Douglas
Conway Draw
CONWAY RESVR
POCKET RESVR
SECOND
STANDARD
MERIDIAN
GUIDE
AUXILIARY
Draw
318
36
31
1
6
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
N
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

LIMESTONE

CO-010-208E

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area and will be released from further wilderness study.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 8,740 acres intensively inventoried
0 acres proposed as WSA in 2/1/80 recommendations
0 acres identifed as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____ Yes __X__ No

GENERAL LOCATION: Northwest Colorado (Moffat County).

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: A 12,580 acre unit was proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: As a result of public comments and a field check, the boundary was adjusted to exclude numerous imprints related to grazing. An 8,740 acre unit was intensively inventoried.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: As a result of the intensive inventory field work, the boundary was adjusted to exclude additional imprints related to grazing. A unit containing 7,557 acres was determined to be in a natural condition. The intensive inventory report and proposed Wilderness Study Area publication dated February 1, 1980, incorrectly reported the final acreage for this unit as 8,368 acres. The correct acreage after boundary adjustments is 7,557 acres. The unit was not recommended as a Wilderness Study Area.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: This unit contains approximately 7,557 acres of public land administered by BLM. The unit has grazing and oil and gas leases. The lands surrounding this unit are predominantly public lands. BLM Inventory Unit CO-010-208 is to the west with Inventory Unit CO-010-210 separated by the county road in Irish Canyon to the east.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: This unit contains the east end of Cold Springs Mountain and portions of Big and Little Joe Basins. The southern end of Limestone Ridge, which runs in a north-south direction for approximately three miles in the unit, is the dominant landform. Elevations along the ridge reach 8,636 feet. The steep eastern slopes of Limestone Ridge form the western slopes of Irish Canyon. In the central portion of the unit are the rugged southern slopes of Cold Springs Mountain. The western portion of the unit opens into Big and Little Joe Basins. Limestone Ridge and the Basins are open areas, while the central portion is densely vegetated with pinyon-juniper.

Imprints of Man: The imprints of man remaining in the unit include a reservoir, abandoned fencelines, and four ways. Because these imprints do not represent major surface or vegetative disturbances and are few in number, the evidence of man's activities is substantially unnoticeable. The unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Ten comments addressed the naturalness of the unit. Eight of these comments concurred with the BLM evaluation that the unit is in a natural state. One comment stated that the fences are abandoned and the ways are not maintained and are revegetating. One comment cited part of the unit as being natural and one comment stated the unit is not natural due to the presence of maintained roads and man-made improvements in the unit. No specific locations for these were given. According to the information available to BLM, all maintained roads have been excluded from the unit through previous boundary adjustments. The imprints remaining in the unit do not significantly impact the naturalness of the unit.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Some opportunities for solitude do exist but are limited in extent. The rugged topography of the slopes of Cold Springs Mountains would tend to concentrate users onto a linear area along Limestone Ridge and the portions of Big and Little Joe Basins in the unit. These relatively small areas are very open, thus increasing the chance of encountering others or being aware of the presence of others. The dense pinyon-juniper and rugged topography in the center portion of the unit would provide screening and some opportunities to become isolated. This area encompasses approximately one-third of the unit, resulting in a relatively small area in which to experience a feeling of solitude. The opportunities for solitude are not considered to be outstanding in the unit.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Fourteen comments addressed this issue. Thirteen comments stated the unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude for the following reasons: steep slopes and dense vegetation, good viewing range and no outside lights visible. Two commenters never encountered any other people in this unit while backpacking. One commenter stated that roads and man-made structures in the unit as well as outside sights and sounds detract from the opportunities for solitude. BLM recognizes that opportunities for solitude are present but are limited in extent and are not outstanding. No specific information was provided that would change the conclusions reached on the limitations to outstanding opportunities for solitude.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE, UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Historically, big game hunting (primarily mule deer) has been the major recreational activity in the unit. Hunting and associated activities (camping, hiking, etc.) would continue to be the major primitive recreational opportunities in the unit. The hunting opportunities are typical of the Brown's Park region. The rugged topography of the center portion would constrain the freedom of movement between Limestone Ridge and the Basins. There are no supplemental values or other features which enhance the recreational opportunities or make them unique in a regional context. While opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation do exist, they are not considered to be outstanding.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eight comments specifically addressed this criterion. Seven comments said that a variety of opportunities are present in the unit. Of these comments, four cited outstanding opportunities for big game hunting/watching, birdwatching, camping, hiking, etc. One comment suggested that the geologic features of the area and the presence of two endangered plants are "unique attributes" to the unit and provide truly outstanding recreational potential for viewing and nature study. One comment stated the unit does not have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation but provided no specific information.

BLM's evaluation that hunting is the primary primitive recreational opportunity in this unit remains unchanged. The unique geology is contained in Irish Canyon which forms the eastern boundary of the unit. Only a portion of Irish Canyon is in the unit due to the county road which runs through the canyon. The suspected presence of threatened and endangered plant species at the mouth of Irish Canyon (which would be only a small portion of the unit) is not considered to provide outstanding recreation opportunities. Should the presence of these plants be verified, BLM has other management methods available to protect environmental values. BLM recognizes that opportunities for primitive unconfined recreation do exist in the unit, but they are not considered to be outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: The threatened and endangered Peregrine falcon uses the area for a hunting territory. Threatened and endangered plant species (*Parthenium ligulatum* and *Penstemon yampaensis*) are reported to occur within the area. The *Penstemon* is endemic from Maybell to Elk Springs, therefore, the location at the mouth of Irish Canyon and south of Vermillion Creek bridge is of scientific and evolutionary significance. Irish Canyon is of geologic significance. It covers 12 of 22 geologic formations found in northwest Colorado. This is unusual due to the extensive faulting resting nearly vertical. These sediments represent over 600 million years of the earth's history.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Fifteen comments stated that the unit has supplemental values. Eleven of these comments recognized the unique geology, hunting territory for the Peregrine falcon, and the reported presence of the two threatened and endangered plant species identified by BLM. One comment states that "the rocks and burnt pinyon forests are of extreme interest and beauty" as well as birds of prey and a large elk herd.

The presence of supplemental values by themselves does not qualify an area as a WSA. Wilderness protection is but one of many methods available to BLM to protect and manage environmental values. As stated in the Wilderness Inventory Handbook, wilderness designation will not be used as a substitute for these other management methods. Wilderness Study Areas must be identified only on the basis of the roadless and wilderness characteristics criteria.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

All imprints are minor in character and rehabilitation is not necessary.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Four comments specifically addressed this issue. Three stated that imprints of man were minor and reclamation would be easy or accomplished naturally. One comment stated reclamation was not possible without extensive work and money. After boundary adjustments, the imprints remaining in the unit are minor and would not require artificial rehabilitation.

RATIONALE FOR NOT IDENTIFYING THIS UNIT AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

While the Limestone unit is a medium sized tract of undeveloped public land, the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation are not considered to be outstanding. The opportunities to become isolated are limited to the relatively small rugged central portion of the unit. Recreational opportunities center around hunting and associated activities. Freedom of movement between Limestone Ridge and the Basins is confined by the rugged topography and dense vegetation in the center of the unit. While opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation are present, they are limited in variety and extent; therefore, the unit does not meet the criteria required for further study.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. Since this area has not been identified as a WSA, comments addressing these concerns will be utilized by BLM in future land-use planning. One comment noted conflicts with grazing and one comment referred to adjacent state lands.

best copy available

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Limestone
CO 010 208E

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 24

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 52
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:
17 Personal Letters
____ Postcards
6 Public Comments Forms
1 Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

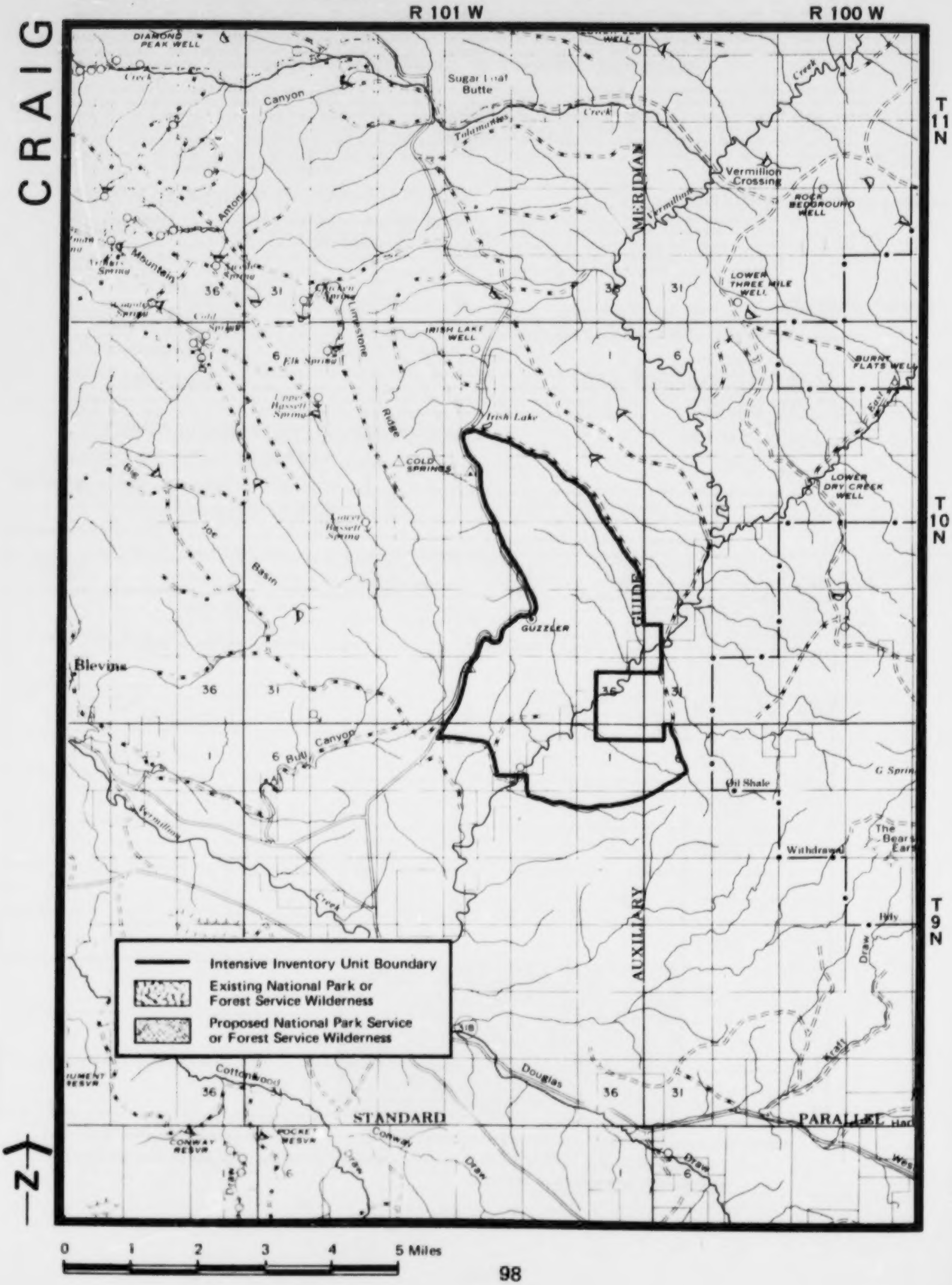
GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:
21 Colorado
2 Utah
1 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:
21 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
2 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	5			4	1	
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS	1			1		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.	1		1	2		
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	14	1	1	14	1	1
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	18	2	1
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	1		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	2		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO 010-210 Irish Canyon


R 101 W
R 100 W
T 11 N
T 10 N
T 9 N
DIAMOND PEAK WELL
Sugar Loaf Butte
Canyon
Creek
Tolamatilas
MERIDIAN
Vermillion Crossing
Vermillion
ROCK BEDGROUND WELL
Antone
Mountain
Limestone
Elk Spring
IRISH LAKE WELL
LOWER THREE MILE WELL
BURNT FLATS WELL
Upper Bassett Spring
Ridge
Irish Lake
COLD SPRINGS
Big
Joe
Basin
Lower Bassett Spring
LOWER DRY CREEK WELL
GUIDE
GUZZLER
Blevins
Bull
Canyon
Oil Shale
G Spring
The Bears Ears
Withdrawal
AUXILIARY
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
Douglas
Cottonwood
STANDARD
PARALLEL
CONWAY RESVR
POCKET RESVR
Conway
Draw
N
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

CO-010-210
Area Not Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

IRISH CANYON

CO-010-210

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area and will be released from further wilderness study.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 6,600 acres intensively inventoried
0 acres proposed as WSA in 2/1/80 recommendations
0 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____ Yes __X__ No

GENERAL LOCATION: Northwest Colorado (Moffat County).

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: A 12,270 acre unit was proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: As a result of public comments and a field check, the southern boundary (common with BLM Inventory Unit CO-010-2100) was relocated due to misplacement of the boundary road. A 6,080 acre unit was intensively inventoried.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: The acreage of the unit determined to be natural was re-calculated. The correct acreage of the unit is 6,600 acres. The unit was not recommended as a Wilderness Study Area.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: The Irish Canyon Unit contains approximately 6,600 acres of public land administered by BLM. A State section is located along the eastern boundary and was excluded from the unit. The primary use of this unit is winter grazing. This unit is surrounded by public land.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: This unit consists of the narrow north-south ridge which forms the steep eastern side of Irish Canyon. The ridge top reaches elevations of 7,425 feet. The northeastern portion of the unit opens into more rolling terrain and contains two side drainages of Vermillion Creek. A small portion of Vermillion Creek Canyon enters the unit in the southeastern portion. Vermillion Creek runs for approximately two miles through the unit. The state section outside the unit encompasses much of the very rugged part of Vermillion Canyon. The vegetation is dense pinyon-juniper along the ridge with sagebrush and grasses in the draws. The presence of water in Vermillion Creek provides for riparian vegetation.

Imprints of Man: The imprints of man are related to grazing and include stock watering facilities and ways. They are not substantially noticeable due to limited use and vegetative and topographic screening. The bulk of the unit is in a natural condition.

Evaluation of Public Comments: All nine comments specifically addressing this issue stated that the unit was in a natural state with only minor imprints of man associated with grazing.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Opportunities for solitude are present in this unit but are limited. A visitor could become isolated while in Vermillion Canyon, but the canyon comprises only a very small part of the unit. Some opportunities exist along the ridge where the pinyon-juniper is dense, but they are confined to a relatively small linear area. The remainder of the unit is open with minimal screening, thus increasing the chance of encountering others or being aware of the presence of others. Taken cumulatively, the opportunities to experience solitude are not considered outstanding.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Fourteen comments addressed these opportunities. Thirteen comments stated that the unit provided outstanding opportunities for solitude. Of these comments, six cited the steep canyons and rolling hills as providing opportunities to experience solitude. One commenter encountered no other people after several days in the unit. One comment considered the opportunities as outstanding especially in Vermillion Canyon. The comment also noted that even if outstanding opportunities exist only in the canyon it still constitutes isolation in the unit; therefore, the unit as a whole does provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. One comment noted that outside sights and sounds detract from the opportunities.

BLM concurs that one could become isolated in Vermillion Canyon. However, the canyon comprises only a small portion (approximately 160 acres) of the unit; therefore, this opportunity by itself is not outstanding. The linear nature of the unit combined with topographic limitations restrict the opportunities to become isolated elsewhere in the unit. The opportunities are considered not to be outstanding because they are limited in extent and confined to only a very small portion of the unit.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE, UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Historically, big game hunting (primarily mule deer) and viewing of cultural resources have been the major recreational activities in the unit. Hunting and associated activities (camping, hiking, etc.) would continue to be the major primitive recreational activities in the unit. Recreational opportunities are limited due to the narrow configuration and small size of the unit. The small size would further constrain the freedom of movement within the unit. While opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation do exist, they are not considered outstanding.

Evaluation of Public Comments: One comment suggested that due to the ruggedness and small size of the unit, these opportunities are severely hampered. Conversely, ten comments noted that opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are found in this unit. Of these comments, one cited abundant wildlife and two noted the excellent opportunities for hunting, backpacking, camping and sightseeing. One comment suggested that the Vermillion Canyon provides outstanding opportunities for recreation. Another comment cited outstanding opportunities for hunting and hiking due to the rugged topography, visual interest and diversity of riparian vegetation. Two comments stated that outstanding opportunities for recreation are not limited because of the aridity of the climate and one of these also states that the small size of the unit is not a limiting factor.

BLM recognizes that opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation do exist in the unit but does not consider them to be outstanding. The comments received were general in nature and did not provide information that would change the BLM evaluation that hunting is the primary recreational opportunity in the unit. The prominent features of the area are only partially contained in the unit. A county road runs through Irish Canyon and the unit boundary cuts across Vermillion Canyon, a portion of which is on state land. The relatively small size and narrow configuration of the northern portion of the unit further limit the area available to pursue primitive recreation activities in an unconfined setting.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: Irish Canyon is of geologic significance. It covers twelve of the geologic formations found in northwest Colorado. This is unusual due to the extensive faulting which rests nearly vertical. These sediments represent over 600 million years of the earth's history and provide valuable geologic information. A petroglyph site on the southern boundary has been recorded within this unit and BLM has marked this with an interpretive sign and an improved foot trail leading to the site. These petroglyphs indicate prehistoric use of the area by the Fremont culture and Ute Indians. Chukar partridge have been introduced into the area by the Colorado Division of Wildlife. The population numbers about 100 birds. They are one of only two populations occurring in Moffat County. A threatened and endangered plant, Penstemon yampaensis, has been reported to occur at the mouth of Irish Canyon along the southern boundary of the unit.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Twelve comments noted the supplemental values identified by BLM. The presence of supplemental values alone does not qualify an area as a WSA. Wilderness protection is but one of many methods available to BLM to protect and manage environmental values. As stated in the Wilderness Inventory Handbook, wilderness designation will not be used as a substitute for these other management methods. Wilderness Study Areas must be identified only on the basis of the roadless and wilderness characteristics criteria.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

The imprints are minimal within this unit, and artificial rehabilitation is not necessary. All five comments specifically referring to this issue stated that the imprints of man were minor and could be reclaimed through natural processes.

RATIONALE FOR NOT IDENTIFYING THIS UNIT AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The Irish Canyon Unit is a relatively small tract of undeveloped public land. The linear nature of the unit combined with the topographic limitations, restrict the opportunities to become isolated and constrain the primitive recreational opportunities. While opportunities for both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation do exist, they are not outstanding. Thus, the unit does not qualify for further study.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. Since this area has not been identified as a WSA, comments addressing these concerns will be utilized by BLM in future land-use planning.

One comment referred to conflicts related to grazing but gave no specific information.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Irish Canyon
CO 010 210

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 19

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 20
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

12 Personal Letters
____ Postcards
4 Public Comments Forms
3 Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

15 Colorado
1 Utah
3 Other

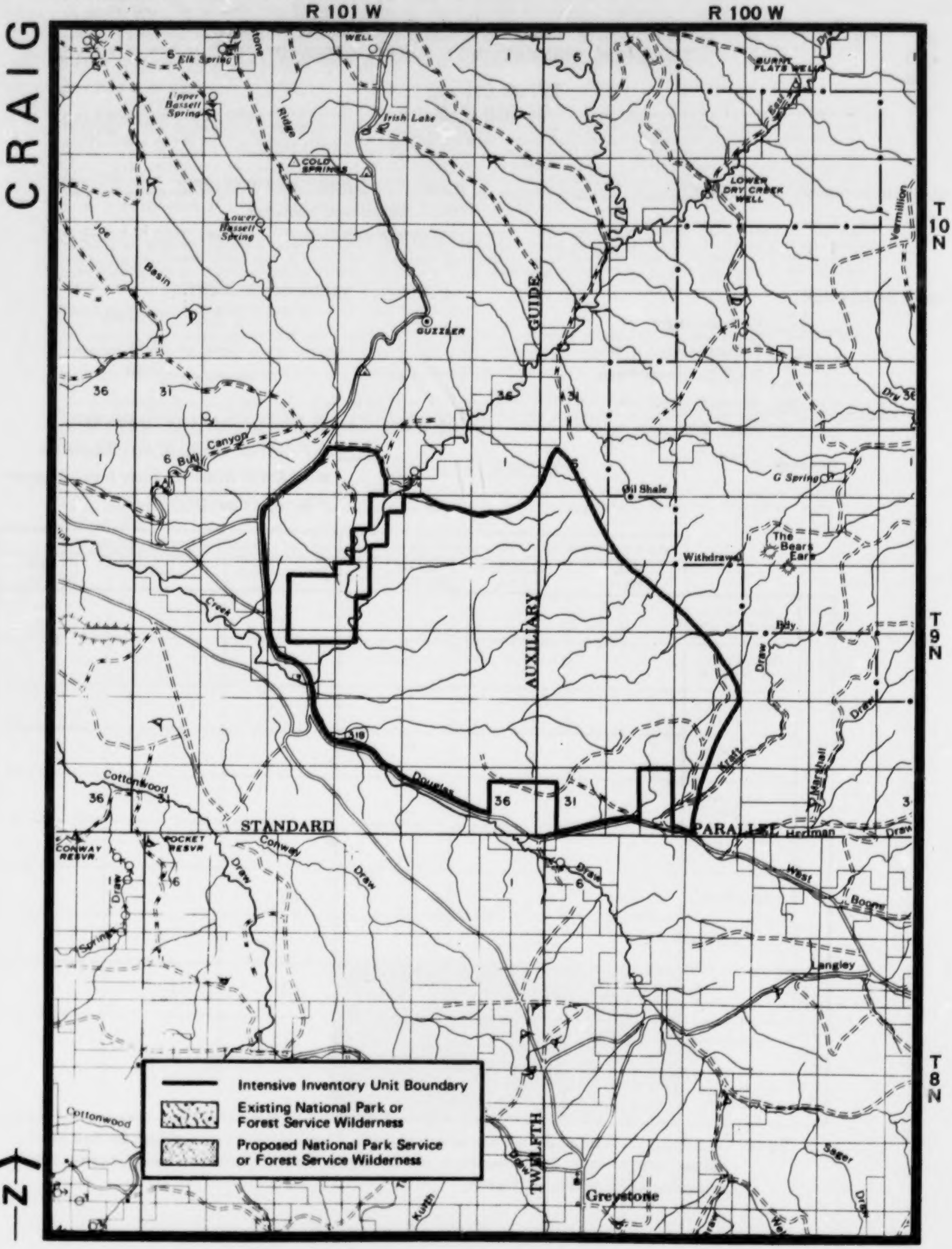
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

18 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
____ # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	5			3	1	1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS						
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.	1			1		
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	12	1		11		2
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	14	1	3
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	1		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨			

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-010-210D Douglas Draw


R 101 W
R 100 W
CRAIG
T 10 N
T 9 N
T 8 N
N
Elk Spring
Upper Bassett Spring
Ridge
Irish Lake
WELL
COLD SPRINGS
Lower Bassett Spring
Joe Basin
GUZZLER
GUIDE
BURNT FLATS WELL
LOWER DRY CREEK WELL
Vermillion
Dry
Bull Canyon
Oil Shale
G Spring
The Bears Ears
Withdrawal
Bdy.
AUXILIARY
Creek
318
Douglas
Draw
Marshall
Cottonwood
STANDARD
PARALLEL
Herdman
West
Boone
CONWAY RESVR
POCKET RESVR
Conway
Spring
Langley
Cottonwood
TWELFTH
Greystone
Sager
Kurth
36
31
1
6
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

DOUGLAS DRAW

CO-010-210D

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area and will be released from further wilderness study.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 16,960 acres intensively inventoried
0 acres proposed as WSA in 2/1/80 recommendations
0 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____ Yes X No

GENERAL LOCATION: Northwest Colorado (Moffat County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: A 10,770 acre unit was proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: As a result of public comments and a field check, the northern boundary (common with BLM Inventory Unit CO-010-210) was relocated due to misplacement of the boundary road. A 16,960 acre unit was intensively inventoried.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: This unit was not recommended as a Wilderness Study Area.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: This unit contains 16,960 acres of public land administered by BLM. The unit has grazing and oil and gas leases. The surrounding lands are a mixture of public, private, and State lands. In the western portion of the unit, State and private lands along Vermillion Creek penetrate the unit for approximately two miles. These lands are outside the unit and were not inventoried for wilderness characteristics.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The Douglas Draw unit consists primarily of rolling hills and valleys, generally flat and semi-arid terrain with little or no diversity in the vegetation. The majority of the unit is sandy with sagebrush and scattered sections of pinyon-juniper. Vermillion Creek is in this unit for less than one-half mile.

Imprints of Man: The imprints are substantially noticeable due to the lack of vegetative screening. They are mostly associated with grazing activities. Due to the number of imprints and the lack of varied terrain and vegetative growth, this unit has noticeable imprints and is not considered to be in a substantially natural condition.

Evaluation of Public Comments: One comment stated that the unit is in a natural condition, but provided no specific information.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Due to the lack of significant topographic and vegetative screening, this unit provides minimal opportunities to become isolated from others. The openness of the unit would increase the chances of encountering others or being aware of the presence of others in the unit. There are no outstanding vistas which can enhance a feeling of solitude. Vermillion Creek and its associated topography is in the unit for less than one-half mile. While some opportunities for solitude do exist, they are not considered to be outstanding.

Evaluation of Public Comments: One comment stated that opportunities for solitude were present in the unit and that the geology is such that one would not likely meet or be aware of the presence of others in the unit. Because of the limitations discussed above, the opportunities are not considered outstanding.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are not present within this unit, due to a combination of factors. The lack of variety in topography does not enhance opportunities for scenic viewing, backpacking or hiking. The irregular configuration due to the private and state lands along Vermillion Creek creates a confined type of recreation. Hunting is the main form of recreation, with the opportunities being typical to northwest Colorado. There are no supplemental values or other features which would enhance the recreational opportunities. Overall, the primitive recreational opportunities are considered limited in variety and extent and therefore not outstanding.

Evaluation of Public Comments: One comment stated the unit is an excellent place for various small and big game hunting as well as hiking and camping. No specific information was provided to change the BLM evaluation that the recreation opportunities are primarily limited to hunting.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: Threatened and endangered plant species, Oxytropis obnapiformis and Eriogonum viridulum, occur at the confluence of Douglas Draw and Vermillion Creek along the southwestern boundary of the unit. Chukar partridge have been introduced into the area by the Colorado Division of Wildlife. The population numbers about 100 birds. They are one of only two populations occurring in Moffat County.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Three comments stated the unit has supplemental values of interesting geology, rare forms of vegetation, wildlife, cultural resources and possible fossil vertebrate resources. No additional specific information to that described above was provided. Wilderness protection is but one of many methods available to BLM to protect and manage environmental values. As stated in the Wilderness Inventory Handbook, wilderness designation will not be used as a substitute for these other management methods. Wilderness Study Areas must be identified only on the basis of the roadless and wilderness characteristics criteria.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

The possibility for rehabilitation within this unit is very limited. The ways have been bladed and receive moderate use by ranchers and hunters. The semi-arid climate, sandy soil and lack of vegetation would make rehabilitation difficult. One comment stated that the imprints are minor in nature and could be reclaimed through natural processes, but provided no specific information.

RATIONALE FOR NOT IDENTIFYING THIS UNIT AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

While the Douglas Draw unit is a relatively large tract of public land, the imprints of man are substantially noticeable due to lack of topographic and vegetative screening. This also affects the opportunities for solitude. The freedom of movement within the unit is compromised by the private and state lands which penetrate the unit along Vermillion Creek. Overall, the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in variety and extent. Taken cumulatively, the unit does not have the characteristics required for wilderness study.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. Since this area has not been identified as a WSA, comments addressing these concerns will be utilized by BLM in future land-use planning.

One comment referred to the adjacent state lands.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Douglas Draw
CO 010 210D

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 4

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 4
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

1 Personal Letters
___ Postcards
1 Public Comments Forms
2 Meetings
___ Phone Calls
___ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

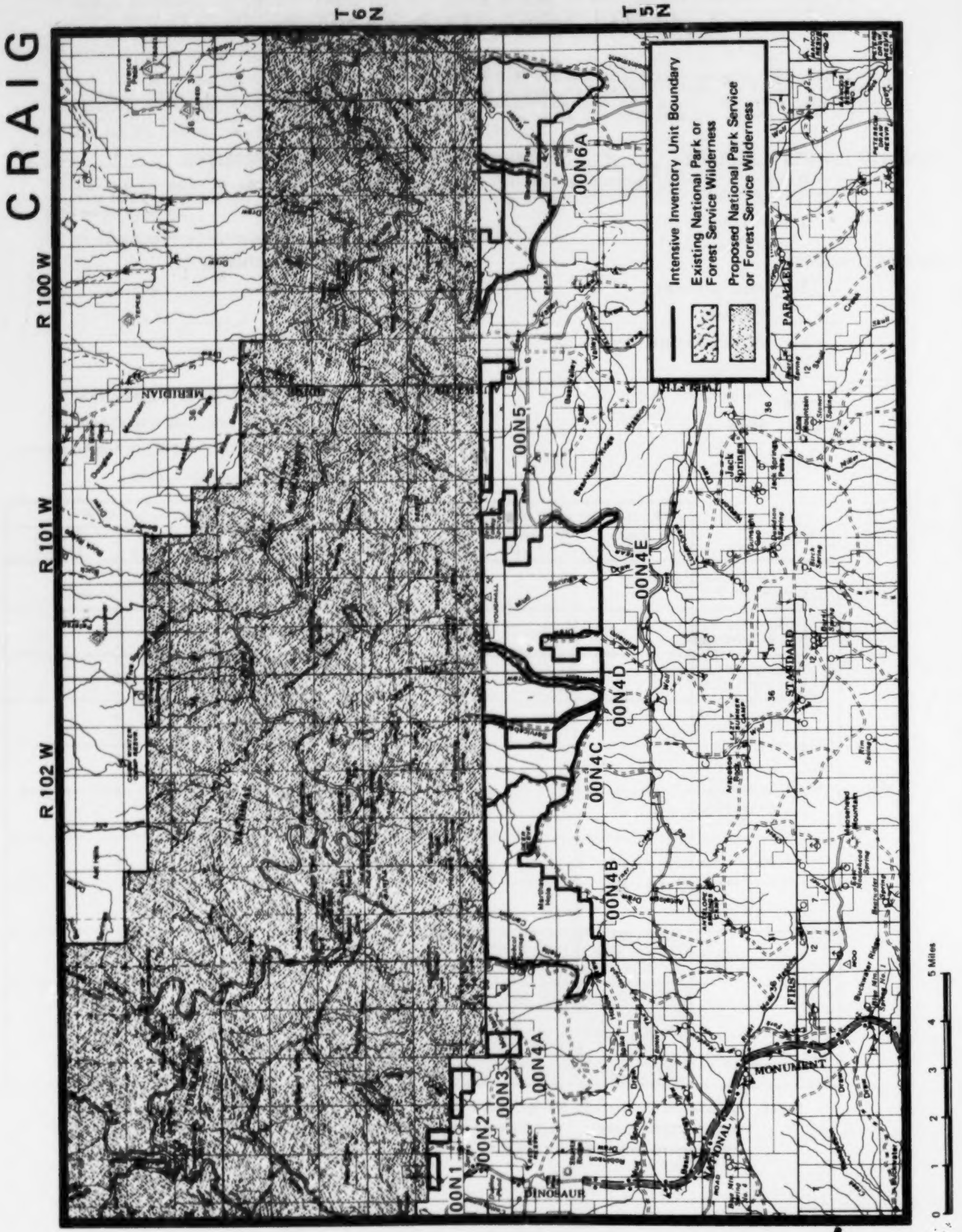
4 Colorado
___ Utah
___ Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

2 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
0 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
2 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.						
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS						
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.			1	1	1	
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	2		1	3	3	
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨		2	
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨			
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨		2	

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.


CRAIG
T 6 N
T 5 N
R 100 W
R 101 W
R 102 W
00N1
00N2
00N3
00N4A
00N4B
00N4C
00N4D
00N4E
00N5
00N6A
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
MERIDIAN
TWELFTH
PARAMETER
STANDARD
FIRST
MONUMENT
DINOSAUR
Jack Springs
0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles
N

DINOSAUR ADJACENT UNITS - SOUTHERN BOUNDARY

CO-010-N1 through N6A

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Units do not qualify as Wilderness Study Areas.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Units do not qualify as Wilderness Study Areas and will be released from further wilderness study.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 16,410 acres intensively inventoried (ten units)
0 acres proposed as WSA in 2/1/80 recommendations
0 acres identified as a WSA

N1 = 110 acres
N2 = 80 acres
N3 = 320 acres
N4A = 240 acres
N4B = 4,100 acres

N4C = 1,600 acres
N4D = 1,200 acres
N4E = 4,500 acres
N5 = 560 acres
N6A = 3,800 acres

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____ Yes __X__ No

GENERAL LOCATION: Along the southern boundary of Dinosaur National Monument (Moffat County).

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: Eleven (11) units consisting of 23,000 acres were proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: The original acreage figure of 23,000 was in error. Units N6B and 271 were combined into one unit and are reported on with the units adjacent to the northern boundary. As a result of public comments and a field check, a road bisecting Unit N6A and a chained area in the same unit were identified and excluded. The acreage for the ten units (excluding N6B) was recomputed. Ten (10) units consisting of 16,410 acres were intensively inventoried.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: None of the ten (10) units were recommended as Wilderness Study Areas.

OWNERSHIP

Area Description: Individually, the units are less than 5,000 acres, but they are contiguous to portions of Dinosaur National Monument (DNM) which have been proposed for wilderness designation by the National Park Service. All units are public land administered by BLM. A private inholding of approximately 440 acres is located in Unit N6A, but was not inventoried for wilderness characteristics. The units are under grazing and oil and gas leases.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: These multiple units are located adjacent to the southern boundary of Dinosaur National Monument. The boundary is generally located on the top of Blue Mountain which is a large ridge, running east and west. The northern face of Blue Mountain inside the Monument drops abruptly down to the benches of the Yampa River. Generally, the units are comprised of the south facing slopes of Blue Mountain (elevations 7,000 to 8,000 feet). Hells Canyon in Unit N4B is a break in the ridge. Vegetation consists primarily of sagebrush, mountain-brush and grass. Occasional pockets of broadleaf trees can be found at the higher elevations and on the northern slopes. Some pinyon-juniper is also found along ridges in the units.

Imprints of Man: The units generally appear to be natural. Minor imprints of man, mostly associated with grazing (fences, reservoirs, stock tanks, and ways), are present in the units. Because they do not represent major surface or vegetative disturbances and are widely scattered throughout the units, these imprints are considered to be substantially unnoticeable.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Fourteen comments generally concurred with the BLM analysis on the imprints of man. Fifteen comments stated that these units, in particular units N4B and N6A, are physiographic continuations of features of the Monument's proposed wilderness. Two comments also identified Tanks Peak (Unit N4E) as an outstanding feature.

Because public comment centered on three units (N4B, N4E, N6A), additional descriptive information is provided below:

Unit N4B: BLM recognizes that Hells Canyon is a break in the ridge of Blue Mountain which forms the southern boundary of the Monument. Hells Canyon extends up into Unit N4B for approximately one and one-half miles before reaching a maintained road which goes along the western side of the canyon for another one and one-half miles. The road provides access to the spring development at Bobcat Springs. The portion of Hells Canyon without the road encompasses approximately 480 acres outside the Monument. The canyon is very rugged where it cuts through the Blue Mountain ridge inside the Monument. As it leaves the Monument, the canyon becomes more open and the slopes less steep. The eastern portion of Unit N4B is once again the south facing slopes of Blue Mountain which are typical of the rest of the unit.

Unit N4E: Tanks Peak straddles the Monument boundary with the high point (elevation 8717') just south of the boundary. The portion of Tanks Peak contained within the unit comprises approximately 180 acres of the unit. The vast majority of the unit is the south facing slopes of Tanks Peak and associated ridges. The unit is predominantly open sagebrush country with scattered pinyon-juniper.

Unit N6A: This unit is divided into two parts by a road that extends northward from Badger Flat to East Cactus Flat inside the Monument. In the western half of the unit, a piece of private property is located along the Monument boundary. This portion of the unit is contiguous to the Monument for approximately one mile. The eastern half of the unit encompassing approximately 2,450 acres consists primarily of the western slopes of Disappointment Draw and the upper end of a side drainage to Disappointment Draw called Indian Water Canyon. There is a road in Disappointment Draw which separates this unit from Unit N6B/271 to the east. The eastern half of Unit N6A is basically open sagebrush country with scattered pinyon-juniper on the slopes. The boundary is fenced where this unit adjoins the Monument.

While it is true that portions of these three units (N4B, N4E, and N6A) are continuations of physiographic features of Blue Mountain, these continuations comprise very small areas outside the Monument. The bulk of these units are the south facing slopes of Blue Mountain. The Monument boundary was drawn to approximate the natural topographic break of Blue Mountain. In order to have an easily and legally locatable boundary, it was drawn as a straight line; thus, very small portions of the topographic features of Blue Mountain were excluded from the Monument.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Primarily due to the physical break from the Monument, and the awkward configurations including narrow fingers of public land created by roads and private lands, the acreage in which to experience solitude is limited. The units themselves lack topographic variation (basically rolling hills) and vegetative screening (basically sage and grass). The units are discussed specifically below:

Unit N4B: While this unit does contain the upper end of Hells Canyon which is the major break in Blue Mountain, only a very small portion of the canyon undisturbed by the road is in the unit. The canyon becomes more open in this unit as well. The opportunities for solitude are restricted to the linear area of the canyon itself. The isolation opportunities would not become outstanding until visitors reached the more rugged portions of the canyon and blocked configuration of the Monument. While Hells Canyon serves as an access route to the Monument, the small size and linear nature of the canyon would tend to concentrate visitors in the canyon. If one were to follow Hells Canyon to the Yampa River in the Monument, this opportunity is interrupted by the Mantle Ranch road which has been excluded from the Monument's wilderness proposal. The remainder of Unit N4B outside of Hells Canyon is physically separated from the Monument by the abrupt northern face of Blue Mountain.

Unit N4E: The opportunities for solitude as related to those in DNM are confined to the small area on the top of Tanks Peak. Tanks Peak is physically separated from the rest of the Monument by the abrupt northern face of Blue Mountain. The remainder of this unit is comprised of open, rolling hills dominated by sagebrush. While opportunities for solitude do exist, they are not considered to be outstanding because of the topographic separation from the Monument, the relatively small size of the unit, the lack of topographic or vegetative screening throughout most of the unit, and private lands which penetrate the unit on the south and east.

Unit N6A: The unit consists primarily of slopes and side drainages of Disappointment Draw. A side drainage, Indian Water Draw, runs in a northeasterly direction and enters Disappointment Draw just inside the Monument boundary. The private property in the middle of the unit, the road in Disappointment Draw, and the Monument boundary fence in Disappointment Draw would concentrate visitors in the small, linear area around Indian Water Canyon thus limiting the opportunities for solitude.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Most comments addressed the units collectively with only a few providing information on specific units. Three comments stated that outstanding opportunities are not present in unit N6A due to size and various activities taking place in the units. BLM concurs that due to the topographic break of Blue Mountain, there is not sufficient acreage in these units to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Eighteen comments stated that Units N4B, N4E, and N6A do provide outstanding opportunities primarily because of their contiguity to the proposed wilderness in DNM, the continuation of landforms in the three units, and their predominantly natural condition. Due to a combination of configuration, topographic barrier, and lack of topographic and vegetative screening in the units themselves, these units were determined not to have outstanding opportunities for solitude as described specifically above.

These comments also stated that the units provide a refuge for solitude away from the heavy summer use in the Monument's river canyon. Two of the comments stated these units are isolated and contain side canyons of the Yampa River and other small canyons and draws which offer total isolation. One comment also noted that many of the hillsides are visible from much of the length of the Yampa River in the Monument. The opportunity for these units to provide a "refuge for solitude" is interrupted by the Mantle Ranch road which is a non-wilderness corridor in DNM. With the exception of Hells Canyon, these units consist primarily of the south facing slopes of Blue Mountain. Visitors in the Monument view primarily the abrupt northern face of Blue Mountain which is within DNM.

Finally, the National Park Service stated that the units adjacent to the southern boundary of DNM do not need to be studied further for wilderness.

Unlike units adjacent to the monument's northern boundary, these units do not enhance the opportunities present in the Monument and are not enhanced by the presence of DNM due primarily to the physical barrier and configuration.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE, UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Historically, hunting has been the primary recreational activity of the units themselves. As hunting is not allowed in the Monument, this activity is confined to the public lands outside DNM. Hunting and related activities would continue to be the primary recreational opportunities in these units. Other activities that could take place in these units include backpacking and scenic viewing. Because of the location of the Monument boundary, few of the units provide vistas of the Monument. The relatively small size of these units and the interrupted geographic pattern is not conducive to freedom of movement within a wilderness setting. In addition, there are no supplemental values in the nine units themselves which would enhance the recreational opportunities.

The primary recreational opportunities in the Monument are centered around the river canyons. These canyons provide outstanding boating, scenic viewing, and camping. Because these units are physically separated from the canyons, they do not directly enhance the outstanding recreational opportunities present in the canyons. Opportunities for hiking and related activities are limited on the Monument lands between the canyons and these units due to topographic barriers. For these reasons the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are not considered to be outstanding when the units are considered in conjunction with adjoining Monument lands.

Evaluation of Public Comments: One comment stated that recreation would require facilities and motorized equipment and also cited the close proximity of Deerlodge Park, a developed area at the east end of DNM. Opportunities for non-wilderness types of recreation were not a consideration in the inventory.

Seventeen comments stated that the opportunities are outstanding in Units N4B, N4E and N6A primarily for the same reasons cited under solitude. BLM recognizes that some opportunities for primitive recreation do exist but the opportunities are confined by geographic distribution and the topographic limitations described above.

One of these comments also stated that broad views of the Bull Canyon, Willow Creek, and Skull Creek areas to the south can be seen from these units. This comment also cited hiking, climbing in the canyons, birdwatching, photography, and scenic viewing as potential recreation activities. Another comment stated that Tanks Peak provides a panorama of DNM, while a third comment cited the hunting opportunities. Views of Bull Canyon, Willow Creek, and Skull Creek are blocked by Buckwater Ridge, Moosehead Mountain, and Lone Mountain. Tanks Peak does provide a panorama of DNM but is a relatively small area and one of few panoramas on lands outside the Monument boundary.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Two species of threatened or endangered plants are known to occur in the area and one species is reported to occur. Peregrine falcons are known to occur, and the entire area is potential habitat for the black-footed ferret. One comment said there are no supplemental values. One comment supported the BLM analysis. One comment stated the units have values in combination with adjacent DNM but provided no specific information. A fourth comment stated the area is uniquely beautiful and that fragile desert ecosystems need protection. No specific information was provided.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

Generally, all minor imprints of man can be returned to a substantially unnoticeable condition by either natural processes or by hand labor. All ways are capable of rehabilitating naturally. Four comments concurred with this analysis.

RATIONALE FOR NOT IDENTIFYING THESE AREAS AS WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS:

The units are small with awkward configuratiuons and narrow fingers created by private lands and roads. The units for the most part are physically separated from Dinosaur National Monument due to the natural barrier forming the southern boundary of DNM. The wilderness values and potential, therefore, are not enhanced by the presence of the Monument, nor do these units directly enhance the Monument's wilderness values. Public comment generally concurred that seven of the units (N1, N2, N3, N4A, N4C, N4D, N5) do not qualify for further wilderness study. Public comment also generally supported wilderness study for Units N4B, N4E, and N6A. For the reasons discussed above, these three units, unlike units adjacent to the northern boundary, do not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation when considered by themselves or in conjunciton with the Monument.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. Since these areas have not been identified as WSA's, comments addressing these concerns will be utilized by BLM in future land-use planning.

Several comments stated that it is important that these areas adjoining the Monument be left undeveloped in order to protect the values inside the Monument. Wilderness protection is but one of many methods available to BLM to protect and manage environmental values. As stated in the Wilderness Inventory Handbook, wilderness designation will not be used as a substitute for these other management methods.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Adjacent to Dinosaur National Monument
South Boundary
CO 010 00N1-00N6B

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 39

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 61
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

35 Personal Letters
___ Postcards
4 Public Comments Forms
___ Meetings
___ Phone Calls
___ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

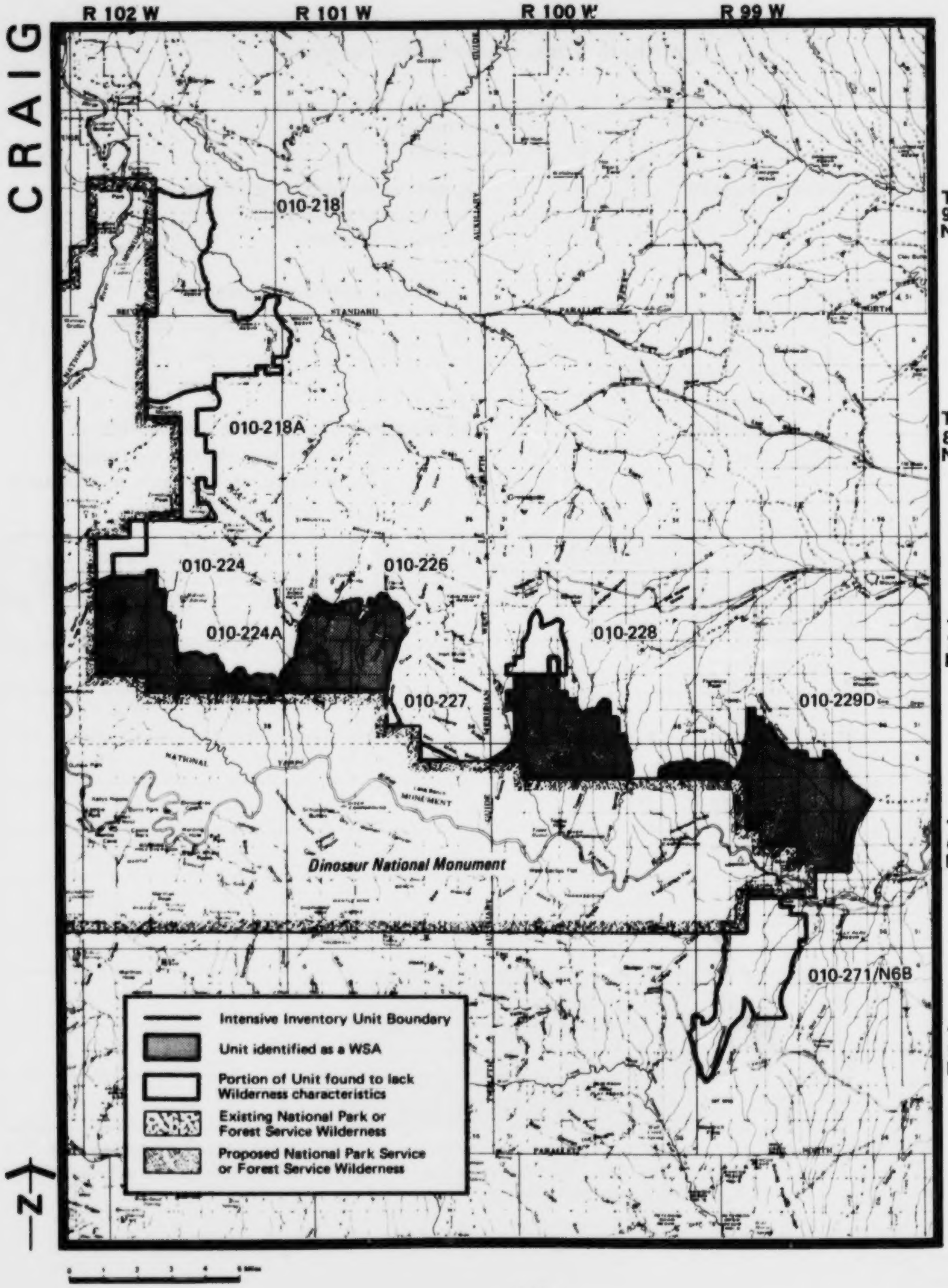
32 Colorado
4 Utah
3 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

34 = FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
4 = AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 = No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP	6			4	1	1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS						
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.	1		1	2		
	FEDERAL GOVT.	1			1		
	INDIVIDUAL	26	4		25	3	2
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	30	1	3
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	1	3	
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	1		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.


CRAIG
R 102 W
R 101 W
R 100 W
R 99 W
T 9 N
T 8 N
T 7 N
T 6 N
T 5 N
010-218
010-218A
010-224
010-224A
010-226
010-227
010-228
010-229D
010-271/N6B
Dinosaur National Monument
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
N
0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles

DINOSAUR ADJACENT UNITS - NORTHERN BOUNDARY

CO-010-218,218A,227,271/N6B
(See WSA Section, Craig District, for Units CO-010-224,224A,226,228,229D)

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Units do not qualify as Wilderness Study Areas.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Units do not qualify as Wilderness Study Areas and will be released from further wilderness study.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 15,170 acres intensively inventoried (see individual acreages below)
0 acres proposed as WSA's in 2/1/80 recommendations
0 acres identified as WSA's

218 - 8,230 acres
218A - 1,900 acres
227 - 240 acres
271/N6B - 4,800 acres

Total - 15,170 acres

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____ Yes __X__ No

GENERAL LOCATION: Adjacent to the northern and southeastern boundary of Dinosaur National Monument (Moffat County).

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: Nine units consisting of 43,420 acres adjacent to the northern and southeastern boundary were proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: As a result of public comments and a field check, the northern boundary of Unit 224A was adjusted to the south to coincide with a previously unidentified road. Units N6B and 271 were combined into one unit. Nine units consisting of 39,680 acres were intensively iventoried.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: None of the nine units were recommended as Wilderness Study Areas.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: These four units contain 15,170 acres of public land administered by BLM. All the units are adjacent to some portion of the proposed wilderness within Dinosaur National Monument (DNM). These units are distributed along the Monument boundary in a pattern broken by private land and roads. The primary use of all four units is grazing and big game hunting.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: With the exception of Unit 271/N6B, these units are located upland along Douglas Mountain. They consist primarily of portions of ridges and draws. The elevations range from 5,000 to 8,000 feet. The distribution pattern caused by intervening private lands and roads interrupts the geographic continuity of the units themselves. Scattered patches of pinyon-juniper with some broadleaf trees are found along the ridges. Ponderosa pine are also found on Douglas Mountain. Sagebrush and grasses are found in the draws and open areas.

Unit 218: The northern and eastern portions of this unit are relatively flat, open areas. The southwestern portion of the unit contains the steep eastern-facing slopes of the western end of Douglas Mountain. Inside the Monument the slopes continue to rise until leveling off. The Monument lands then drop off abruptly into the Canyon of Lodore.

Unit 218A: This unit is comprised mostly of the steep northeastern facing slopes of Douglas Mountain. Inside the Monument the slopes continue to rise until reaching the higher elevations of Zenobia Peak (a non-wilderness area in DNM) and other high points of the western end of Douglas Mountain. The Monument lands then drop off into Zenobia Basin. Private lands penetrate the unit creating an irregular eastern boundary.

Unit 227: This unit is comprised of two non-contiguous parcels. The southern portion of this unit contains a small part of Iron Mine Basin which is a relatively flat open area. A road through the middle of Iron Mine Basin forms the northern boundary of this unit. The northern portion of the unit contains part of a drainage and one ridge top. Both portions of the unit are on the north or backside of a series of ridge tops along and inside the Monument boundary.

Unit 271/N6B: This unit contains the eastern portion of Disappointment Draw and the western portion of Calico Draw. Roads in both draws form the boundaries of the unit. Disappointment Draw drains into the extreme eastern end of the Monument. The narrow SW portion of the unit contains the upper end of Disappointment Draw. Calico Draw drains into Deerlodge Park east of the Monument boundary.

Imprints of Man: The imprints of man found in these units are mostly related to grazing. Grazing and associated activities are still occurring on most of the adjacent Monument lands that have been proposed for wilderness. Under legislation passed in 1960, the National Park Service will phase out livestock grazing on most of the Monument lands.

Unit 218: A bulldozed fence line running approximately two and one-half miles forms the Monument boundary along the northern portion of Unit 218. The northern portion of the unit contains three ways associated with hunting and grazing and two stock reservoirs. The southeastern portion of the unit has been extensively burned. The southeastern portion also contains a network of ways and one stock pond. The cumulative effect of these imprints is that evidence of man's activities is noticeable throughout most of the unit.

Unit 218A: This unit contains ways, fence lines, and stock ponds along the eastern and southern periphery of the unit. These imprints are widely dispersed and do not have a cumulative impact on the unit's naturalness.

Unit 227: No significant imprints of man are located within this unit.

Unit 271/N6B: Two ways and a stock pond are located in the eastern portion of the unit. The impact of these imprints is minor. The Monument boundary in Disappointment Draw is fenced.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Seventeen comments addressed the imprints of man. Sixteen of these comments generally stated that the units are in a natural condition. As part of the evaluation of public comment, BLM conducted additional field checks of these units. It was determined that the cumulative effect of man's imprints is substantial in Unit 218. Additional photo documentation of the imprints in Unit 218 has been placed in the files in Denver and Craig.

Fifteen comments also stated that these units (except for Unit 218A) are physiographic and/or ecological continuations of the proposed wilderness in DNM. The geographic relationship of these units to DNM is described above and discussed further under "solitude."

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Three of the four units are less than 5,000 acres. None of the units provide outstanding opportunities for solitude in their own right; thus, the units have been evaluated in conjunction with the adjacent proposed wilderness in DNM.

Unit 218: Because this unit is highly impacted by the imprints of man, it would be difficult to experience solitude in a wilderness setting. In the southwestern portion of the unit, the rugged, steep eastern facing slopes along the Monument boundary would effectively limit travel between the unit and DNM. Thus, the acreage available in which to experience solitude is restricted due to this physical barrier. In addition, the northern portion of the unit is contiguous to the Lodore Ranger Station and Campground which is a non-wilderness area of DNM.

Unit 218A: Opportunities for solitude are limited due to a combination of topography and configuration. The cliffs forming the western end of Douglas Mountain bisect the unit and create a barrier between the northern portion of the unit and the Monument. Additionally, steep eastern facing slopes along the Monument boundary physically separate the southern portion of the unit from adjoining Monument lands. These topographic barriers would in effect restrict movement between the unit and DNM; thus, the acreage in which to experience solitude is limited. The awkward configuration of the eastern boundary caused by penetrating private land further confines movement within the unit.

Unit 227: The part of Iron Mine Basin within the unit does not share a logical visual continuation of the features in the Monument. The relative flatness of the terrain in this unit consisting of two small parcels contrasts with the ridges and drainages of the Yampa River inside the Monument. Likewise the lack of similar vegetative patterns creates a visual change. The relatively flat open terrain does not provide the contouring necessary to screen visitors. The boundary road through the middle of Iron Basin which continues into the Monument limits the acreage available in which to experience solitude.

Unit 271/N6B: Because of boundary roads, the southwestern portion of the unit is a narrow finger extending from the bulk of the unit. Visitors would be concentrated in a relatively flat open area less than one-half mile in width at its narrowest point. The boundary roads in Disppointment and Calico Draws would further confine the opportunities for solitude to the relatively small linear area of the intervening ridge. The northeast corner of the unit adjoins Deerlodge Park which is not part of the Monument's proposed wilderness. Due to these factors the acreage in which to experience solitude in a wilderness context and in relation to DNM is limited.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Three comments stated that Unit 271/N6B does not have outstanding opportunities due to size, proximity to the development in Deer Lodge Park, and various activities taking place in the units. For the reasons discussed above, BLM concurs that the Unit 271/N6B does not have outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Nineteen comments stated that outstanding opportunities are present in all units except Unit 218A. Four of these comments also included Unit 218A as having outstanding opportunities. These comments generally cited contiguity to DNM, naturalness of the units, and continuation of the Monument's landforms as reasons why these units provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. They further stated that these units enhance the values present in DNM, and are themselves enhanced by the Monument's proposed wilderness. These comments generally addressed all units adjacent to DNM. As discussed in the WSA section for the Craig District, five units adjacent to the northern boundary of DNM are continuations of the Monument's landforms and have been determined to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude in conjunction with the adjoining Monument lands. For the reasons discussed above, Units 218, 218A, 227, and 271/N6B have been determined not to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

One specific comment stated that Disappointment Draw is continuous to DNM with no "natural break." While the comment points out that the north end of the Draw runs down to the Yampa River, the road in Disappointment Draw, the boundary fence line, and the developed area at Deerlodge Park in effect separate this unit from the Monument's proposed wilderness. Because of these factors, the opportunities for solitude are not enhanced by the presence of DNM.

Two comments stated that during the summer when the Monument's river canyons are heavily used, the upland areas of the Monument and these adjoining units provide a refuge for solitude. Two comments also said they had encountered no other people while on an extended trip in the area. Present and potential use was not considered in the inventory as a determining factor for opportunities for solitude. While opportunities for a "refuge for solitude" may exist in certain units adjacent to the northern boundary due to lack of significant topographic barriers (see WSA section, Craig District), movement between these four units and adjoining Monument lands proposed for wilderness is limited due to the physical barriers and awkward configurations specifically described above.

Finally, the National Park Service (NPS) stated that they believe the upland areas north and east of the river canyons have wilderness characteristics in their own right and should be studied further for wilderness. No specific information on the wilderness values of these lands was provided. The NPS also stated that the units adjacent to the southern boundary of DNM including Unit 271/N6B do not need to be studied further for wilderness. Based upon the inventory criteria used by BLM as set forth in the BLM Wilderness Inventory Handbook, these four units unlike other units adjacent to the northern boundary do not enhance the opportunities for solitude present in DNM.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE, UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Historically, hunting has been the primary recreational activity of the four units themselves. As hunting is not allowed in the Monument, this activity is confined to the public lands outside DNM. Hunting and related activities would continue to be the primary recreational opportunities in these units. Other activities that could take place in these units include backpacking, horseback riding, and scenic viewing. Because of the topography along the Monument boundary, few of the high points in the units provide vistas of the river canyons themselves. The relatively small size of these units and the interrupted geographic pattern is not conducive to freedom of movement within a wilderness setting. In addition, there are no supplemental values in the nine units themselves which would enhance the recreational opportunities.

The primary recreational opportunities in the Monument are centered around the river canyons. These canyons provide outstanding boating, scenic viewing, and camping. Because these units are physically separated from the canyons, they do not directly enhance the outstanding recreational opportunities present in the canyons. Opportunities for hiking and related activities are limited on the Monument lands between the canyons and these units due to topographic barriers. These opportunities are further constrained by the imprints of man in Unit 218 and the awkward configurations of Units 218A and 271/N6B. For these reasons the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are not considered to be outstanding when the units are considered in conjunction with adjoining Monument lands.

Evaluation of Public Comments: One comment stated that it is unlikely that opportunities in Unit 271/N6B exist which do not require facilities or motorized equipment. The comment also cited the proximity of the developments at Deerlodge Park to these units. Opportunities for non-wilderness types of recreation were not a consideration in the inventory.

Seventeen comments stated that outstanding opportunities are present in all of these units except for Unit 218A. Four of these comments also included Unit 218A as having outstanding opportunities. Most of these comments generally cited the same reasons given for solitude (i.e., contiguity to DNM, naturalness of the units, and continuation of the Monument's landforms). They further stated that these units enhance the values present in DNM, and are themselves enhanced by the Monument's proposed wilderness. Four comments specifically stated that these units were ideal for hiking and backpacking. Other activities identified included birdwatching, photography, scenic viewing and cross-country skiing. The public comments generally addressed the units adjacent to DNM collectively. In these four units, BLM recognizes that opportunities for primitive recreation do exist but the opportunities are confined by geographic distribution, topographic limitations, and the imprints of man described above.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

These units all serve as a hunting area for the endangered Peregrine falcon, but no nesting sites have been recorded. No cultural or historic sites have been recorded in these units. Seven comments addressed these values. One commentor stated he had no knowledge of any supplemental values in Units 229D and 271/N6B. Six comments stated that supplemental values were present. One of these comments said the area is uniquely beautiful and that fragile desert ecosystems need to be preserved. One comment said these units have values in combination with DNM but provided no specific information. Another comment cited the diversity of wildlife. Finally, one comment stated that the area has incredibly eroded sandstone and faulting, but provided no specific location information.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

With the exception of the imprints in Unit 218, all imprints within these units are minor in character and rehabilitation is not necessary. The imprints of man in Unit 218 are extensive and would require use of more than hand labor or reliance on natural processes to achieve reclamation. Four comments generally stated that the units were natural but provided no specific information.

RATIONALE FOR NOT IDENTIFYING THESE UNITS AS WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS:

Because of their contiguity to Dinosaur National Monument, the opportunities in these units for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation must be considered in relation to the wilderness proposal for the Monument. Because of the limitations of topography, configuration, and distribution pattern these units do not contribute in an outstanding manner to the wilderness opportunities present in the Monument nor are they enhanced in an outstanding manner by the adjoining Monument lands. Unit 218 has also been determined to be unnatural due to cumulative impacts. While public comment generally supported further wilderness study for all units adjacent to the northern boundary of DNM and Unit 271/N6B, BLM has determined that these four units unlike other units adjacent to the northern boundary do not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation and have not been identified as Wilderness Study Areas.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

The NPS suggestd that BLM lands dropped during the initial inventory be reconsidered as part of a comprehensive approach to wilderness in the area. It is BLM policy that lands dropped during the initial inventory because they failed to meet the criteria of size, roadless, and naturalness will not be brought back into the wilderness review process. Lands that were dropped from wilderness consideration during the initial inventory have been officially released from further wilderness consideration and will be managed under BLM's general management authorities and subject to standard environmental protection procedures.

Several of the comments suggested that a primary value of these units would be to protect the wilderness values that are recognized to be present in DNM. Wilderness protection is but one of many methods available to BLM to protect and manage environmental values. As stated in the Wilderness Inventory Handbook, wilderness designation will not used as a substitute for these other management methods. WSA's must be identified only on the basis of the roadless and wilderness characteristics criteria in Section 603 of FLPMA. Through its land use planning process, BLM works with agencies such as the National Park Service and the general public to develop management plans that are responsive to special environmental areas and concerns.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Adjacent to Dinosaur National Monument
North Boundary
CO 010 218-271/N6B

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 42

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 73
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:
39 Personal Letters
___ Postcards
3 Public Comments Forms
___ Meetings
___ Phone Calls
___ Other

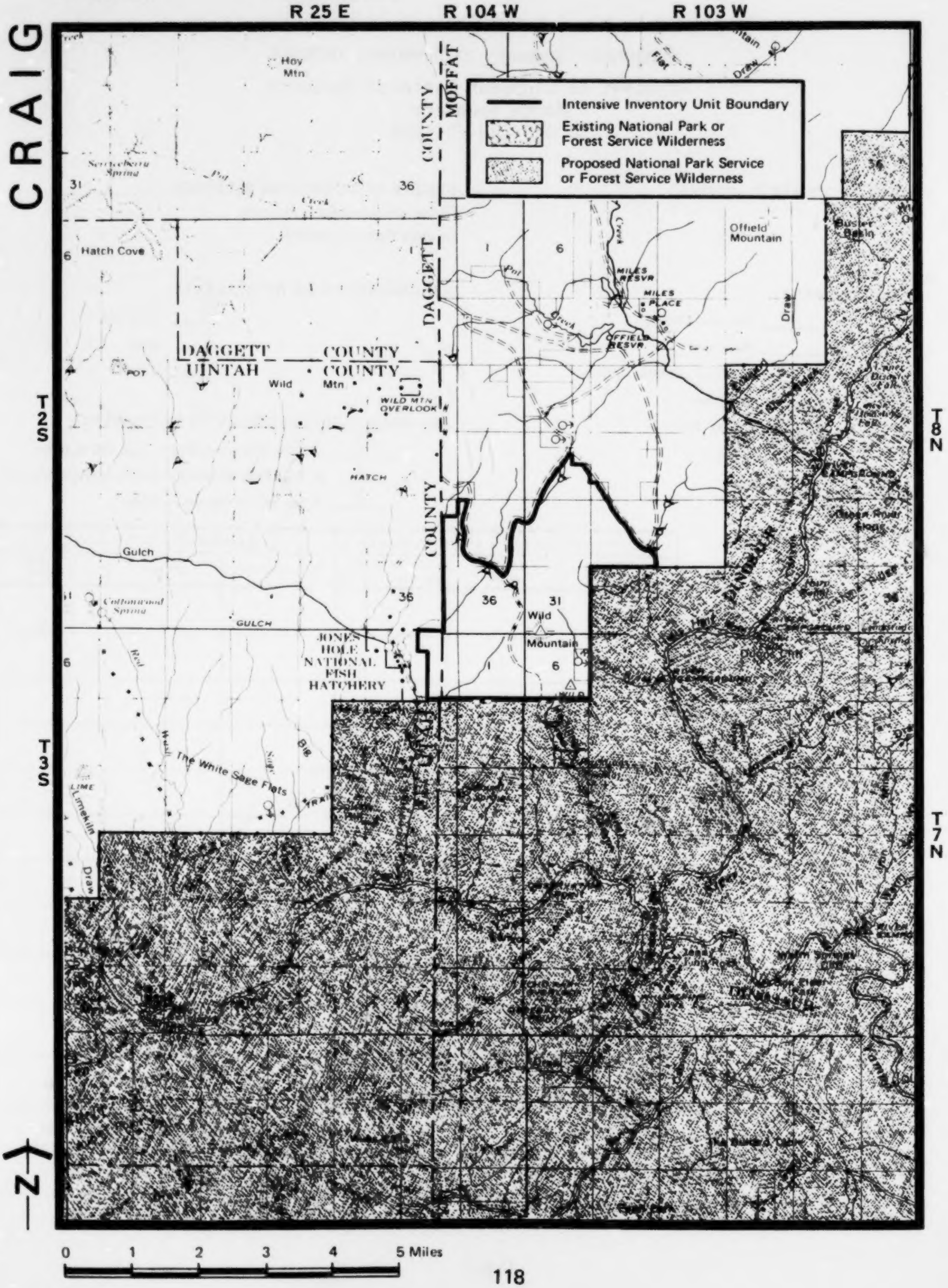
GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:
38 Colorado
___ Utah
4 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:
37 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
4 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOM-MENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRON-MENTAL GP.	5			4		1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS						
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.	1			1		
	FEDERAL GOVT.	1			1		
	INDIVIDUAL	29	4	1	31		3
	OTHER	1					
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	33		4
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	4		
	NO RECOM-MENDATION	▨	▨	▨	1		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

UT-080-104 Wild Mountain


R 25 E
R 104 W
R 103 W
T 2 S
T 3 S
T 8 N
T 7 N
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
Hoy Mtn
Serviceberry Spring
Pot Creek
Hatch Cove
DAGGETT COUNTY
UINTAH COUNTY
MOFFAT COUNTY
Wild Mtn
WILD MTN OVERLOOK
HATCH
Gulch
Cottonwood Spring
GULCH
JONES HOLE NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY
Red Wash
The White Sage Flats
Big
Lime
Limekiln Draw
Offield Mountain
MILES RESVR
MILES PLACE
OFFIELD RESVR
Draw
Buster Basin
Wild Mountain
UTAH
31
36
6
1
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles
N

UT-080-104
Area Not Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

WILD MOUNTAIN

UT-080-104

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area and will be released from further wilderness study.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 4,650 acres intensively inventoried (4,520-CO; 130-UT)
0 acres proposed as WSA in 2/1/80 recommendations
0 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____ Yes [✓ No]

GENERAL LOCATION: Adjacent to the western boundary of Dinosaur National Monument (DNM) in Colorado and Utah (Moffat-Daggett Counties). Inventoried by Utah BLM under Cooperative Agreement.

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: A 6,713 acre unit was proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: As a result of public comments and a field check, the boundary was adjusted to exclude the western portion in Utah due to a lack of naturalness. A 4,560 acre unit was intensively inventoried.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: The acreage of the unit was recalculated with an electronic planimeter and determined to be 4,650 acres. This unit was not recommended as a Wilderness Study Area.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: Wild Mountain consists of 4,650 acres of public land administered by BLM. The unit is adjacent to the Jones Hole National Fish Hatchery to the west and proposed wilderness within Dinosaur National Monument to the east and south. A mixture of private, state, and public lands are to the north and northwest. Grazing is the primary use of the unit.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The unit consists of the top and slopes of Wild Mountain with elevations reaching 8,624 feet. Wild Mountain is a north-south ridge which begins in the southeast corner of the unit approximately along the Monument boundary and runs the length of the unit. Inside the Monument the topography consisting of several drainages drops abruptly into the canyon of the Green River. In essence, Wild Mountain is a land form which extends from the Monument and is not a continuation of the Monument's landforms. The slopes and top of Wild Mountain are sagebrush covered and become more rolling at the outer edges of the unit. The southwestern portion of the unit consists of the steep eastern slopes of the Jones Hole Creek drainage.

Imprints of Man: Imprints of man's activities are scattered throughout the unit. These imprints are primarily related to grazing and consist of ways, fences, reservoirs, and a guzzler. None of these imprints represent a major surface or vegetative disturbance. Taken cumulatively, their impact is slight due to their scattered distribution.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Fourteen comments stated that the unit is natural and generally concurred with the BLM evaluation. Thirteen comments noted that the unit is a continuation of the wilderness values found in Dinosaur National Monument. Several of these comments emphasized that this unit is a continuation of the Monument's landforms. The comments addressing this unit were generally included in comments addressing all units adjacent to the Monument. No comments specifically addressed the landforms of this unit and their relationship to the landforms of the Monument.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Opportunities for solitude are limited within the unit itself due to the unit's open character with little vegetative or topographic screening. This lack of screening would increase the opportunity for encountering others or being aware of the presence of others while in the unit. Because the dominant topographic feature of the unit is the ridge top and steep slopes of Wild Mountain, use would tend to be concentrated along the top of Wild Mountain resulting in diminished opportunities to be alone. The steep canyon topography along the Monument boundary and inside the Monument creates a physical barrier and restricts movement between the unit and the Monument. Wild Mountain is not a logical visual continuation of the Monument. The openness of the terrain contrasts with the rugged river canyons inside the Monument. Likewise, the lack of similar vegetative patterns creates a visual change. Due to the singularity of the opportunities in the unit itself and the physical separation from the Monument, the area in which to experience solitude is limited. Thus, the unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Thirteen comments generally stated that outstanding opportunities do exist in the unit. Most of these comments were contained in comments addressing all units adjacent to the Monument. One comment specifically identified Wild Mountain as providing breathtaking perspectives of the Canyon of Ladore and the Uintahs in Utah. In general, the comments cited contiguity to DNM, naturalness of the unit, and continuation of the Monument's landforms as reasons why this unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. They further stated that this unit enhances the values present in DNM, and is enhanced by the Monument's proposed wilderness. BLM has determined that the unit is vegetatively and topographically different than the Monument. Due to the physical barrier of the steep canyon walls, the opportunities for solitude are limited to the unit itself.

Two comments stated that during the summer when the Monument's river canyons are heavily used, the upland areas of the Monument and adjoining units provide a refuge for solitude. While opportunities for a "refuge for solitude" may exist in certain units adjacent to the northern boundary due to lack of significant topographic barriers (see WSA section, Craig District), movement between this unit and the adjoining Monument lands is limited due to the physical barrier.

The National Park Service (NPS) stated that Monument lands outside the canyon core have wilderness characteristics in their own right. No specific information pertaining to this unit was provided. Based upon the inventory criteria used by BLM as set forth in the BLM Wilderness Inventory Handbook, this unit unlike other units adjacent to the northern boundary does not enhance the opportunities for solitude present in DNM.

Three comments suggested man-made impacts outside the unit detract from the opportunities for solitude. BLM did not assess sights and sounds outside the unit during the inventory.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Due to the physical barrier created by the canyon walls, recreational opportunities are limited to the unit itself. In the unit, the terrain is repetitious and does not provide an interesting setting for recreational experiences of hiking, camping or backpacking. One recreational opportunity is available for a very limited number of users on the small area along the top of Wild Mountain. This offers a 360° vista of the near and distant surrounding landscape. Some hunting is also available. As hunting is not allowed in the Monument, the opportunity to pursue this activity in a wilderness setting would be confined to the small area of the unit itself. Due to the confined nature of the opportunities in the unit itself and the physical separation from the Monument's recognized recreation values centered in the adjoining canyon of the Green River, the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are not outstanding.

Evaluation of Public Comments: One commentor stated that the unit did not have unconfined recreation and one noted that the unit had no aesthetic beauty. Eleven comments stated that the unit provides outstanding opportunities. Most of these comments generally cited the same reasons given for solitude (i.e., contiguity to DNM, naturalness of the unit, and continuation of the Monument's landforms). They further stated that the unit enhances the values present in DNM, and is enhanced by the Monument's proposed wilderness. As with solitude, only one comment specifically addressed the opportunities of this unit (i.e., the view from Wild Mountain). The NPS comments under solitude also pertain to recreation. BLM recognizes that opportunities for primitive recreation do exist in this unit but considers them to be confined by geographic separation and topographic limitations.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

No supplemental values were identified. One comment stated there were none. Five comments noted the unit contained other values citing wildlife habitat and values in combination with the Monument. No specific information was provided.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

All imprints are determined to be minor and active rehabilitation is not necessary. Three comments concurred with the BLM analysis.

RATIONALE FOR NOT IDENTIFYING THIS UNIT AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

Due to the steep canyon walls which create a physical barrier between this unit and the Monument, the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation are limited to the unit itself. The unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude due to the unit's open character and its lack of vegetation or topographic screening. The unit also does not provide outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Recreational opportunities are limited within the majority of the unit. The top of Wild Mountain does offer a 360° landscape vista, but this activity does not provide an outstanding wilderness experience due to its singularity and the very confining nature of the terrain which would restrict most activity to Wild Mountain itself. The Wild Mountain unit does not contribute to or enhance the values present in the Monument, nor is it enhanced by the presence of DNM. The unit does not qualify for Wilderness study.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

WILD MOUNTAIN

UT 080 104

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 33

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 59
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

31 Personal Letters
Postcards
1 Public Comments Forms
Meetings
Phone Calls
1 Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

29 Colorado
3 Utah
1 Other

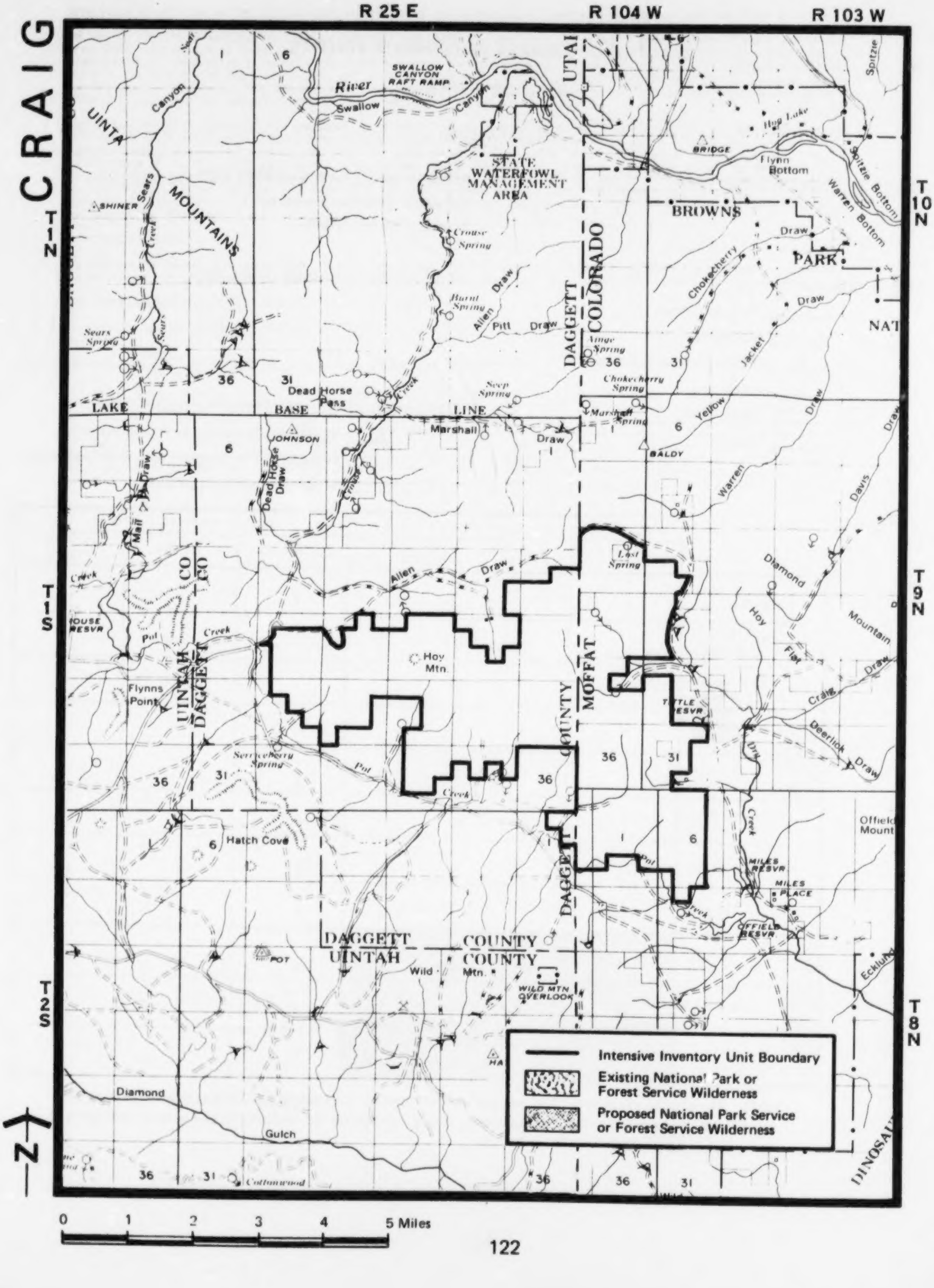
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

30 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
3 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
# No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	4			3	1	
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS						
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.	1			1		
	FEDERAL GOVT.	1			1		
	INDIVIDUAL	23	3		23	2	1
	OTHER	1			1		
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	26	3	1
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	3		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨			

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

UT-080-110 Hoy Mountain


R 25 E
R 104 W
R 103 W
CRAIG
T 1 N
T 1 S
T 2 S
T 10 N
T 9 N
T 8 N
UINTA MOUNTAINS
River
Swallow Canyon
SWALLOW CANYON RAFT RAMP
STATE WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT AREA
BROWNS PARK
Flynn Bottom
Spitzie Bottom
Warren Bottom
Hog Lake
BRIDGE
UTAH
COLORADO
DAGGETT
MOFFAT COUNTY
UINTAH
DAGGETT CO
UINTAH CO
Crouse Spring
Burnt Spring
Allen Draw
Pitt Draw
Sears Spring
Sears Creek
SHINER
LAKE BASE LINE
Dead Horse Pass
Dead Horse Draw
JOHNSON
Marshall Draw
Marshall Spring
Chokecherry Spring
Chokecherry Draw
Seep Spring
Yellow Jacket Draw
Warren Draw
Davis Draw
BALDY
Lost Spring
Diamond
Hoy Flat
Hoy Mountain
Craig Draw
Deerlick Draw
TITTLE RESVR
Hoy Mtn.
Pot Creek
Flynns Point
HOUSE RESVR
Serviceberry Spring
Hatch Cove
Offield Mount
MILES RESVR
MILES PLACE
OFFIELD RESVR
Ecklund
DAGGETT COUNTY
UINTAH COUNTY
Wild Mtn.
WILD MTN OVERLOOK
POT
Diamond Gulch
Cottonwood
NAT
DINOSAUR
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
N
0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles

UT-080-110
Area Not Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

HOY MOUNTAIN

UT-080-110

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area and will be released from further wilderness study.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 10,769 acres intensively inventoried (5,254-CO; 5,515-UT)
0 acres proposed as WSA in 2/1/80 recommendations
0 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____ Yes X No

GENERAL LOCATION: Located in both Utah and Colorado (Moffat - Daggett Counties). Inventoried by Utah BLM under cooperative agreement.

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: A 10,840 acre unit was proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: As a result of public comments and a field check, the boundary was adjusted to exclude maintained roads. A 10,644 acre unit was intensively inventoried.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: The acreage of the unit was recalculated with an electronic planimeter and determined to be 10,769 acres. This unit was not recommended as a Wilderness Study Area.

OWNERSHIP:

The Utah-Colorado state line crosses the unit with 5,515 acres in Utah and 5,254 acres in Colorado. Surrounding lands are a mixture of State, private and public lands. This unit is separated from Unit CO-010-214 (Diamond Breaks) by private lands and roads.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The unit consists of the peak and ridge tops of Hoy Mountain and its steep side slopes with numerous quartzite rock outcroppings. Vegetation is varied, pinyon-juniper being dominant, with scattered areas of Mountain Mahogany, Ponderosa pine, fir and aspen.

Imprints of Man: Imprints of man occur along the periphery of the unit. They are primarily associated with grazing in the form of trails, ways and water developments. They do not represent major surface or vegetative disturbances, thus, their visual contrast is slight. The bulk of the unit is in a natural condition.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Two comments stated that the unit is natural. One of these comments also stated that outstanding natural features related to regional values need protection. Wilderness protection is but one of many methods available to BLM to protect and manage environmental values. As stated in the Wilderness Inventory Handbook, wilderness designation will not be used as a substitute for these other management methods. WSA's must be identified only on the basis of the roadless and wilderness characteristics criteria in Section 603 of FLPMA.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: The rugged terrain and vegetation do allow for some opportunities for solitude. Such opportunities are limited due to the topography of the unit; a singular high ridge top which would concentrate users on the top of Hoy Mountain. The irregular configuration due to penetrating private lands limits use of the side slopes of the mountain, adding to very restricted opportunities for solitude. Because the opportunities for solitude are limited, they are not considered to be outstanding.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Six comments generally concurred with the BLM analysis that outstanding opportunities do not exist. Two comments stated the unit has opportunities for solitude. One of these observed that few people would actually be recreating in the unit on the same day. BLM did not evaluate the potential use of a unit to determine the opportunities for solitude, but rather defined solitude on the capability of the units physical characteristics to screen visitors from each other and provide opportunities to become isolated. Based upon the limitations described above, the opportunities for solitude are not considered to be outstanding.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: The terrain and vegetation do offer opportunities for hiking and backpacking. Wildlife provides opportunities for hunting and wildlife observation. The topography of the unit, being the singular, high ridge forming Hoy Mountain, limits the dispersal ability of the unit and the number of users. The irregular shape and narrow portions of the unit due to adjacent private lands restrict movement and confine activities, not allowing for outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation to exist.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Five comments generally supported the BLM recommendation that outstanding opportunities do not exist in the unit. One comment stated the unit does have outstanding opportunities, but provided no specific information.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

No supplemental values were identified.

Evaluation of Public Comments: One comment mentions the "Outlaw Trail." The Outlaw Trail is a historic feature of the Brown's Park region; however, the actual use of this unit by persons connected with the Trail and its history is not known.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

All imprints are minor in character and rehabilitation is not necessary. No comments specifically addressed this issue.

RATIONALE FOR NOT IDENTIFYING THIS UNIT AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The area does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. The adjacent private land creates a very irregular configuration with narrow portions of land penetrating the unit that confine and restrict movement and activities. The topography, being that of a singular high ridge top, limits use and would tend to concentrate use on the ridge top area, reducing the opportuniites for solitude. The restrictive shape and singular topographic feature prevents the opportunities for solitude or a primitive or unconfined type of recreation from being outstanding. Because these characteristics are lacking, this unit does not qualify for wilderness study.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Hoy Mountain

UT 080 110

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 10

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 10
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

10 Personal Letters
____ Postcards
____ Public Comments Forms
____ Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

6 Colorado
4 Utah
____ Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

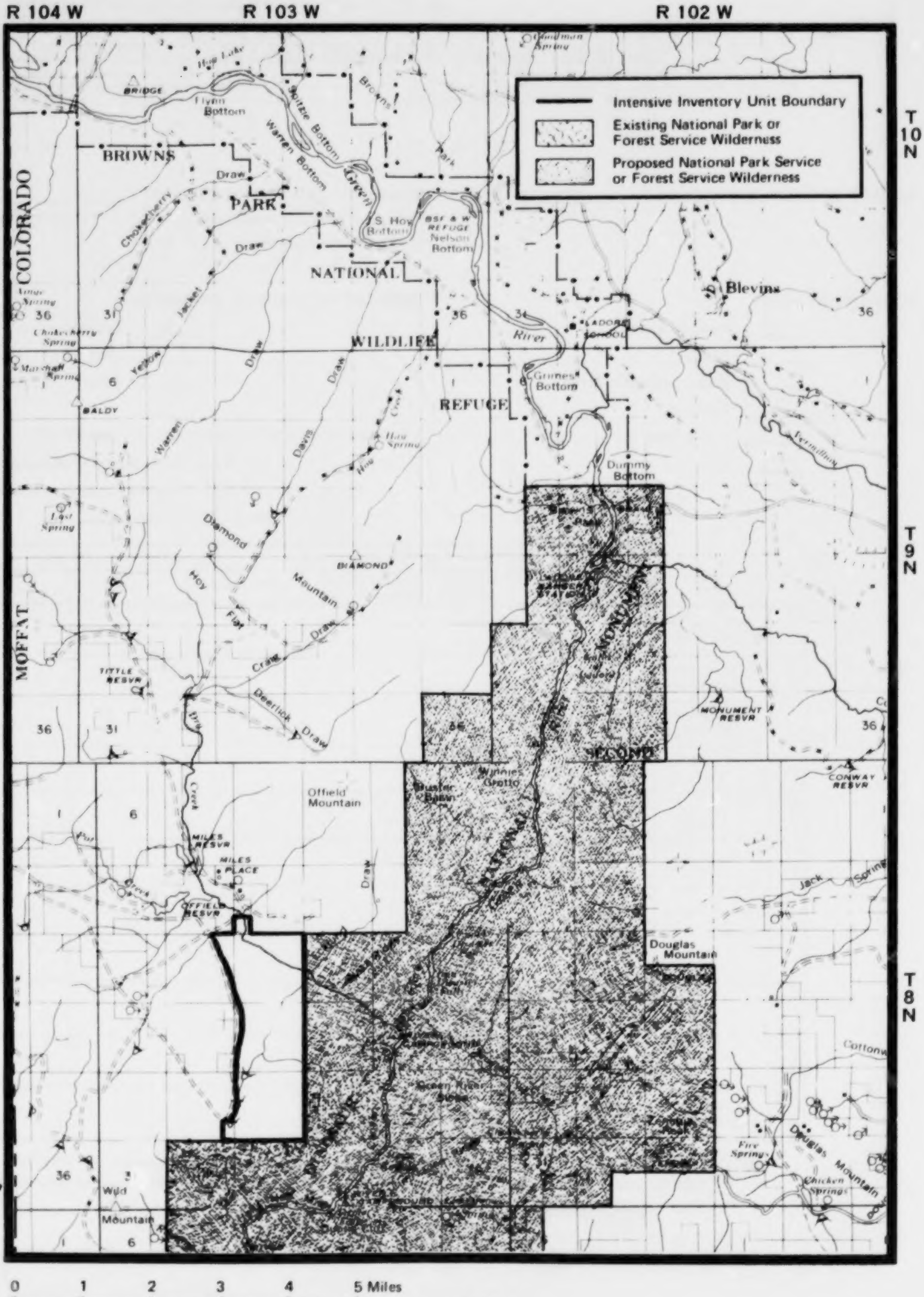
7 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
3 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
____ # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.						
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS						
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	7	3		6	4	
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	7	1	
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	3		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨			

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CRAIG

UT-080-114 Pot Creek


R 104 W
R 103 W
R 102 W
T 10 N
T 9 N
T 8 N
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
▨ Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
▨ Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
COLORADO
MOFFAT
BROWNS
PARK
NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
REFUGE
Flynn Bottom
Warren Bottom
Bottom
Browns
Park
Green
S. Hoy Bottom
BSF & W REFUGE
Nelson Bottom
River
Grimes Bottom
Dummy Bottom
Goodman Spring
Hoy Lake
BRIDGE
Blevins
LADORE SCHOOL
Vermillion
Chokecherry Draw
Chokecherry Spring
Jacket Draw
Yellow
Warren Draw
Marshall Spring
BALDY
Lost Spring
Diamond
Hoy
Flat
Mountain
Davis Draw
Hoy Creek
Hoy Spring
DIAMOND
Craig Draw
Deerlick Draw
TITTLE RESVR
Pot Creek
MILES RESVR
MILES PLACE
OFFIELD RESVR
Offield Mountain
Draw
Buster Basin
Winnie Grotto
NATIONAL
MONUMENT
SECOND
MONUMENT RESVR
CONWAY RESVR
Jack Springs
Douglas Mountain
Cottonw
Fire Springs
Chicken Springs
Douglas Mountain
Green River
Wild Mountain
36
31
6
1
0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles
N

UT-080-114
Area Not Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

POT CREEK

UT-080-114

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area and will be released from further wilderness study.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 2,071 acres intensively inventoried (all in Colorado)
0 acres proposed as WSA in 2/1/80 recommendations
0 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____ Yes __X__ No

GENERAL LOCATION: Adjacent to the western boundary of Dinosaur National Monument (DNM) in Colorado (Moffat County). Inventoried by Utah BLM under cooperative agreement.

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: A 2,071 acre unit was proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: No boundary adjustments were made. A 2,071 acre unit was intensively inventoried.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: This unit was not recommended as a Wilderness Study Area.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: All land within the unit is public land administered by BLM. The unit is contiguous on the east and south to Dinosaur National Monument. A mixture of private and public lands are contiguous on the north and west. The unit is used primarily for grazing and hunting.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The unit is a broad, flat to gently rolling valley bottom. The valley bottom topography extends into the Monument for approximately one-half mile before dropping off abruptly to the Green River Canyon. Pot Creek flows through the northeast corner of the unit. The drainage becomes more rugged and steep after it enters the Monument. The unit is part of the topography outside the Monument which spills over into the Monument.

Imprints of Man: Numerous imprints of man occur in this small area in the form of numerous ways, fencing with red metal posts and red and white stabilizing barrels, and three developed reservoirs. Because of the small size and the lack of vegetative screening, the imprints are substantially noticeable and detract from the unit's naturalness.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eleven comments stated the unit is in a natural condition; no specific information was provided. Eight of these comments also stated that the unit is a continuation of the wilderness values of the monument. These comments emphasized that the unit is a continuation of the Monument's landforms.

No information was provided to change the BLM conclusion that the unit is not substantially natural. The public comment received generally addressed all units adjacent to DNM. No comments provided specific information on how this unit is a continuation of the Monument's landforms.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: The small size of the unit, flat topography, and low lying sparse vegetation limit the opportunities for avoiding the sights and sounds of others. The Pot Creek area of the northeast corner of the unit offers some diversity in terrain and vegetative screening for solitude. Because this unit is not a continuation of the Monument's landforms, the presence of the Monument to the south and east does not significantly enhance the opportunities for solitude within the unit, nor does this unit contribute to the opportunities present in DNM. Substantial imprints of man further detract from the opportunities to have a wilderness experience in a natural setting.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Twelve comments stated that the unit meets this criteria. One comment suggested that this upland unit provides a refuge for "solitude, contemplation and relaxation" away from the traffic of the Monument. Another comment stated that the unit is far removed from developed areas. The National Park Service (NPS) recommended that a comprehensive approach to wilderness in the area be taken. The NPS believes the Monument lands adjoining this unit have wilderness values.

The public comment received generally addressed all units adjacent to DNM. No comments specifically addressed this unit other than the fact that it is contiguous to proposed wilderness within the Monument.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: The lack of any outstanding features, the imprints of man, and the openness of the unit all limit the opportunities for outstanding recreational experiences within the unit.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Ten comments stated the unit has these opportunities or meets the WSA criteria. See NPS comments under Solitude. As with solitude, the public comment received generally addressed all units adjacent to Dinosaur National Monument.

No comments specifically addressed the opportunities in this unit other than to state that it is contiguous to proposed wilderness within the Monument.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

No supplemental values were identified.

Evaluation of Public Comments: One comment stated that the unit has supplemental values in conjunction with the Monument, but provided no specific information.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

The imprints within this unit are determined to be substantially noticeable due to the number of imprints and distribution throughout the unit.

Two comments stated that the unit has reclamation potential, but did not address the imprints identified under Naturalness. This criteria is considered only in units that otherwise contain wilderness characteristics and where it is reasonable to expect the imprints of man's work to return to a substantially unnoticeable level either by natural processes or by hand labor. Because the imprints in this unit are highly visible due to lack of vegetative screening and continual use, artificial rehabilitation by machinery would be necessary to return them to a natural condition in a reasonable amount of time.

RATIONALE FOR NOT IDENTIFYING THIS UNIT AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable in the form of numerous ways, fences and reservoirs. This, combined with the area's open terrain and lack of screening vegetation, restricts the outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Because the unit is not a continuation of the Monument's landforms, the presence of DNM to the south and west does not enhance the opportunities for solitude or recreation within the unit, nor does the unit contribute to the outstanding opportunities present in DNM. Due to the above reasons, this area does not qualify for further wilderness study.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Several of the comments suggested that a primary value of the Dinosaur adjacent units would be to protect the wilderness values that are recognized to be present in DNM. Wilderness protection is but one of many methods available to BLM to protect and manage environmental values. As stated in the Wilderness Inventory Handbook, wilderness designation will not be used as a substitute for these other management methods. WSA's must be identified only on the basis of the roadless and wilderness characteristics criteria in Section 603 of FLPMA. Through its land use planning process, BLM works with agencies such as the National Park Service to develop management plans that are responsive to special environmental areas and concerns.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

POT CREEK

UT 080 114

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 24

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 41
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:
24 Personal Letters
_______ Postcards
_______ Public Comments Forms
_______ Meetings
_______ Phone Calls
_______ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:
22 Colorado
2 Utah
2 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:
24 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
_______ # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
_______ # No Recommendation Given

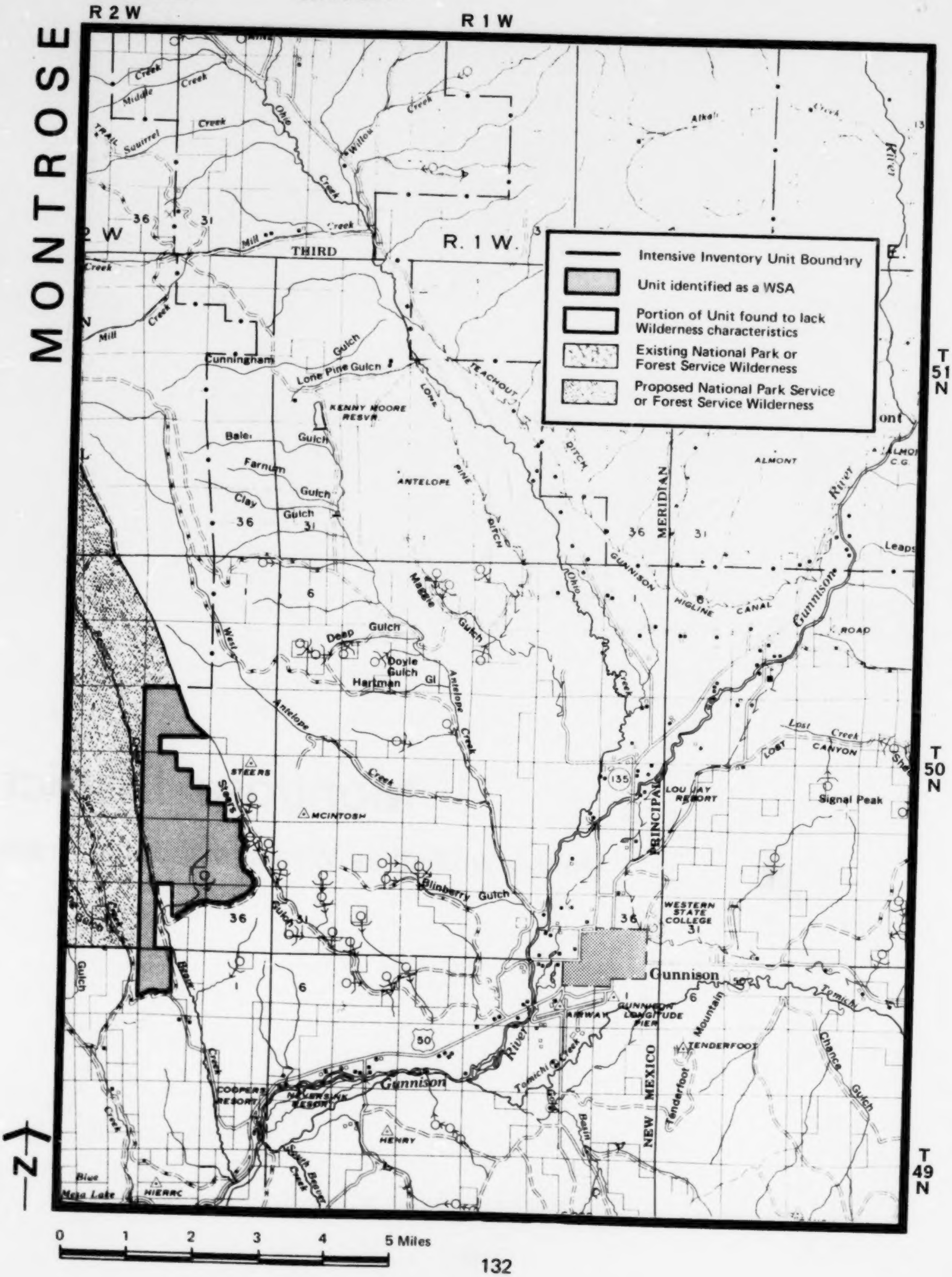
		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	4			3	1	
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS						
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.	1			1		
	FEDERAL GOVT.	1			1		
	INDIVIDUAL	17			16		1
	OTHER	1			1		
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	22	1	1
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨			
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨			

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

Montrose District

Units identified as Wilderness Study Areas

CO-030-053A Steers Gulch


R 2 W
R 1 W
MONTROSE
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
T 51 N
T 50 N
T 49 N
N
THIRD
R. 1 W.
Cunningham
Lone Pine Gulch
KENNY MOORE RESVR
ANTELOPE
TEACHOUT
MERIDIAN
ALMONT
GUNNISON HIGLINE CANAL
Steers
STEERS
MCINTOSH
Antelope Creek
Blinberry Gulch
Doyle Gulch
Hartman
Deep Gulch
Farnum Gulch
Clay Gulch
Gunnison
WESTERN STATE COLLEGE
LOU JAY RESORT
Signal Peak
Lost Canyon
PRINCIPAL
NEW MEXICO
TENDERFOOT
Tomichi Creek
Chance Gulch
Tenderfoot Mountain
HENRY
HIERRC
Blue Mesa Lake
COOPERS RESORT
South Beaver Creek
Gunnison River
Ohio Creek
Willow Creek
Mill Creek
Squirrel Creek
Middle Creek
135
50
36
31
6
1
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

CO-030-053A
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

STEER'S GULCH

CO-030-053A

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 2,440 acres intensively inventoried
2,400 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendations
2,440 acres identified as a WSA (adjacent to U.S. Forest Service RARE II Area #198 - 50,660 acres)

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____Yes __X__No

GENERAL LOCATION: Adjacent to Gunnison National Forest - Northeast Blue Mesa Reservoir near Gunnison (Gunnison County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Intensive Inventory 6/78: An accelerated intensive inventory for this unit was completed prior to the initiation of the Bureau-wide inventory because the unit was contained within a Special Project Area. Therefore, no initial inventory was conducted. 2,440 acres were included in the unit.

Proposed WSA Decision:
8/31/79: Following the public comment period (5/79 to 7/79), 2,440 acres were proposed as a WSA.

2/1/80: 2,440 acres were proposed for WSA following additional intensive field inventory conducted during the summer of 1979.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: All the lands within the unit are public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The entire area is leased for grazing. It is surrounded by a mixture of public, private and Forest Service lands.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: Gently rolling hills and small washes are the dominant topography of the Steer's Gulch Unit. Topography becomes more rugged within the adjacent Forest Service land. Vegetation is predominantly sagebrush/grassland.

Imprints of Man: The unit was determined to be primarily natural in character with man's imprints substantially unnoticeable. Two ways exist within the unit, one branching off from Beaver Creek and the other entering the unit from private land to the east. Both are substantially unnoticeable and do not affect the naturalness of the unit.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Five comments addressed the naturalness of the unit and all supported the BLM's determination that the area is primarily natural in character, but no additional data was provided. Two comments were received specifically addressing roads within the unit. One comment stated the area is roadless. One comment stated the area contains four-wheel drive roads. There are two vehicle ways within the unit. They have not been constructed nor maintained and are substantially unnoticeable. One comment stated the town of Gunnison and the airport are visible from within the unit and affect naturalness. Outside sights and sounds are not evaluated during this phase of the wilderness review process.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Due to its small size, the unit (by itself) would not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude, but the rolling nature of the topography, along with the more extensive forested area contained within the contiguous Forest Service lands would provide topographic and vegetative screening enhancing opportunities for solitude.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Five comments agreed with the 2/1/80 BLM decision that the area contains outstanding opportunities for solitude. One of these comments specifically mentioned that the U.S. Forest Service RARE II area adjacent to the unit enhanced the opportunities for solitude. Another comment stated that the ruggedness of the unit improves the chances of isolation.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: The gently rolling and open terrain of this unit does not, by itself, provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. However, topographically the area is a natural extension of the contiguous 50,660-acre USFS RARE II Area #198. This large combined acreage would provide outstanding opportunities for a number of primitive and unconfined recreation activities such as hiking, horseback riding, hunting, cross-country skiing and mountain climbing.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Five comments stated that outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation exist within the unit. Opportunities for birdwatching, hiking, photography, and climbing were thought to be outstanding by one commentor. One letter stated that primitive recreation opportunities occur as a result of the contiguous U.S. Forest Service RARE II area.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: The unit contains winter habitat critical for deer and elk.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Seven letters stated that the unit contains supplemental values. Critical winter range for deer and elk was mentioned to be a supplemental value in five comments. Two comments stated the unit contains interesting geology. One letter referred to the area as being part of a biogeographic hybrid zone that is important for the study of evolution.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

The unit is essentially natural in character. Only minor imprints exist within the unit and do not require rehabilitation. Two comments addressed reclamation potential. One letter stated that the area has reclamation potential. Another comment mentioned that reclamation is occurring by natural processes.

RATONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The Steer's Gulch unit is essentially natural in character and is a natural extension of adjacent National Forest lands. Only in combination with the contiguous RARE II area would the unit provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The area, therefore, in combination with the Forest Service RARE II area, meets the criteria required of a Wilderness Study Area.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

One letter stated that there is no commercial grade timber within the area. Another comment stated fires cannot be fought in the area if it becomes wilderness. The area could not be intensively managed for grazing if the area becomes wilderness, according to one comment. One comment felt that the unit should not be recommended as a WSA if the adjacent RARE II area is not also recommended for wilderness.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Steers Gulch
CO 030 053A

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 13

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 11
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

8 Personal Letters
___ Postcards
2 Public Comments Forms
3 Meetings
___ Phone Calls
___ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

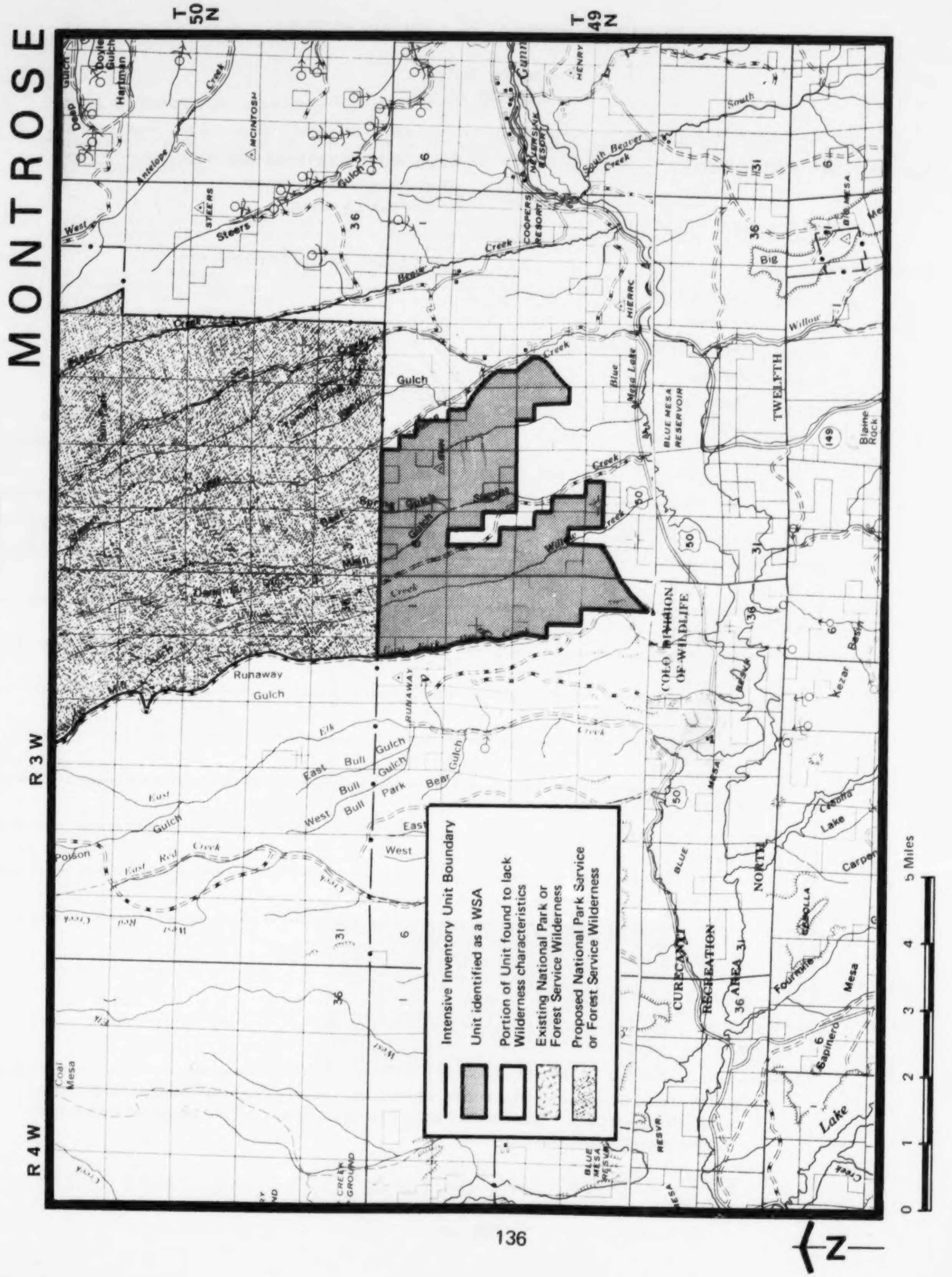
13 Colorado
0 Utah
0 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

10 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
3 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
0 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	3			3		
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		2		2		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	6	1		7		
	OTHER	1			1		
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	10		
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	3		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨			

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.


MONTROSE
T 50 N
T 49 N
R 3 W
R 4 W
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
Blue Mesa Lake
BLUE MESA RESERVOIR
COLO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
CURECANTI RECREATION AREA
Runaway Gulch
Willow
South Beaver Creek
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles
N

CO-030-057
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

WILLOW CREEK

CO-030-057

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 6,070 acres intensively inventoried
6,070 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
6,070 acres identified as a WSA (adjacent to U.S. Forest Service RARE II Area #198 - 50,660acres)

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____Yes [✓ No]

GENERAL LOCATION: Adjacent to Gunnison National Forest - North of Blue Mesa Reservoir near Gunnison (Gunnison County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Intensive Inventory 6/78: An accelerated intensive inventory for this unit was completed prior to the initiation of the Bureau-wide inventory because the unit was contained within a Special Project Area. Therefore, no initial inventory was conducted. This unit contained 6,070 acres.

Proposed WSA Decision:
8/31/79: Following the public comment period (5/79 to 7/79), 6,070 acres were proposed as a WSA.

2/1/80: Additional intensive field study during the summer of 1979 indicated that no boundary adjustments were needed; therefore, 6,070 acres were proposed as a WSA.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: All the lands within the unit are public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The entire area is leased for grazing. It contains no known mining claims or easements. The unit is surrounded by a mixture of public, private and Forest Service lands.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The Willow Creek Unit is characterized by rolling topography cut by narrow gulches. The highest and lowest elevations are 9,400 feet and 7,800 feet, respectively, with a general downslope from the north towards the southern boundary. Aspen and spruce can be found in the higher elevations and along the sideslopes of the drainages. The drainages contain a thick vegetative cover of cottonwood, oakbrush and willow along with a variety of other perennial shrubs. Along the open rolling terrain characterizing the rest of the unit, sagebrush and grasses dominate the landscape.

Imprints of Man: The area has been affected primarily by the forces of nature with only minor imprints of man. Man's work in the area is limited to six miles of ways and eleven developed springs. The ways are maintained solely by the passage of vehicles and in many places consist of no more than two tire tracks. All are revegetating naturally and do not substantially affect the naturalness of the area. The developed springs are substantially unnoticeable due to revegetation and vegetative and topographic screening.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Four comments supported the BLM's recommendation that the unit is primarily natural in character. One of these comments stated that the spring developments which occur in the unit are fairly natural in appearance. One comment stated the area is unnatural because the town of Gunnison, the airport, and Highway 50 can be seen from the unit. Outside sights and sounds are not considered during this phase of the wilderness review process.

Two comments concerning the presence of roads were received. One of these comments stated that there are roads in the unit although it did not give specific locations for these roads. Another comment stated that the area is roadless. The area was evaluated for the presence of roads but only vehicle ways were found. These ways consist of vehicle tracks across sagebrush parks which have received no maintenance.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Though the unit contains a number of factors that hinder opportunities for solitude such as low acreage, narrow configuration and sparse, low-lying vegetation (sagebrush grassland), good opportunities for solitude can be found in the northern section of the unit where stands of aspen and spruce break up the area into smaller viewsheds. When considering this area in conjunction with the RARE II Area #198, which would contribute additional acreage, numerous forested drainages and 12,000-foot peaks, only then would outstanding opportunities for solitude exist.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Nine letters made comments concerning opportunities for solitude. Six comments agreed with the BLM's decision that the area contains outstanding opportunities for solitude. Three comments stated the area lacks opportunities for solitude due to outside factors such as a highway and boats on Blue Mesa Reservoir. Outside sights and sounds are not considered during this phase of the wilderness inventory.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Due to its size and narrow configuration, the unit would not by itself offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. However, when viewed in conjunction with the adjacent RARE II Area #198, which would add additional acreage and which is a natural extension of the unit, the Willow Creek Unit would provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, which includes such activities as hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Three comments stated the unit contains outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. These statements concur with the BLM's 2/1/80 recommendation that the area contains outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. No comments were received stating the area does not contain outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. No new information was provided.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: The unit contains winter habitat critical for deer and elk, and the area is of scientific interest.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Four of the letters received commented that the area contains supplemental values. Three comments stated that the unit is critical winter range for big game. One letter stated the unit is an important biogeographic hybridization zone that is important for evolutionary studies.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

All imprints are rehabilitating naturally and require no manipulation. Three letters mentioned reclamation potential. All three of these comments felt that the area has the potential of being reclaimed via natural processes or through the hand planting of native grasses.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The Willow Creek Unit is essentially natural in character and is a natural extension of adjacent National Forest lands. Only in combination with the contiguous RARE II area would the unit provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The area, therefore, in combination with the Forest Service RARE II area, meets the criteria required of a Wilderness Study Area.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

One comment stated there are range-related resource and access conflicts within the unit. Another four comments mentioned the presence of outside sights and sounds.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Willow Creek
CO 030 057

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 16

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 14
(Often one comment is endorsed by more than one person) (testimonies were not signed)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

11 Personal Letters
Postcards
2 Public Comments Forms
3 Meetings
Phone Calls
Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

16 Colorado
0 Utah
0 Other

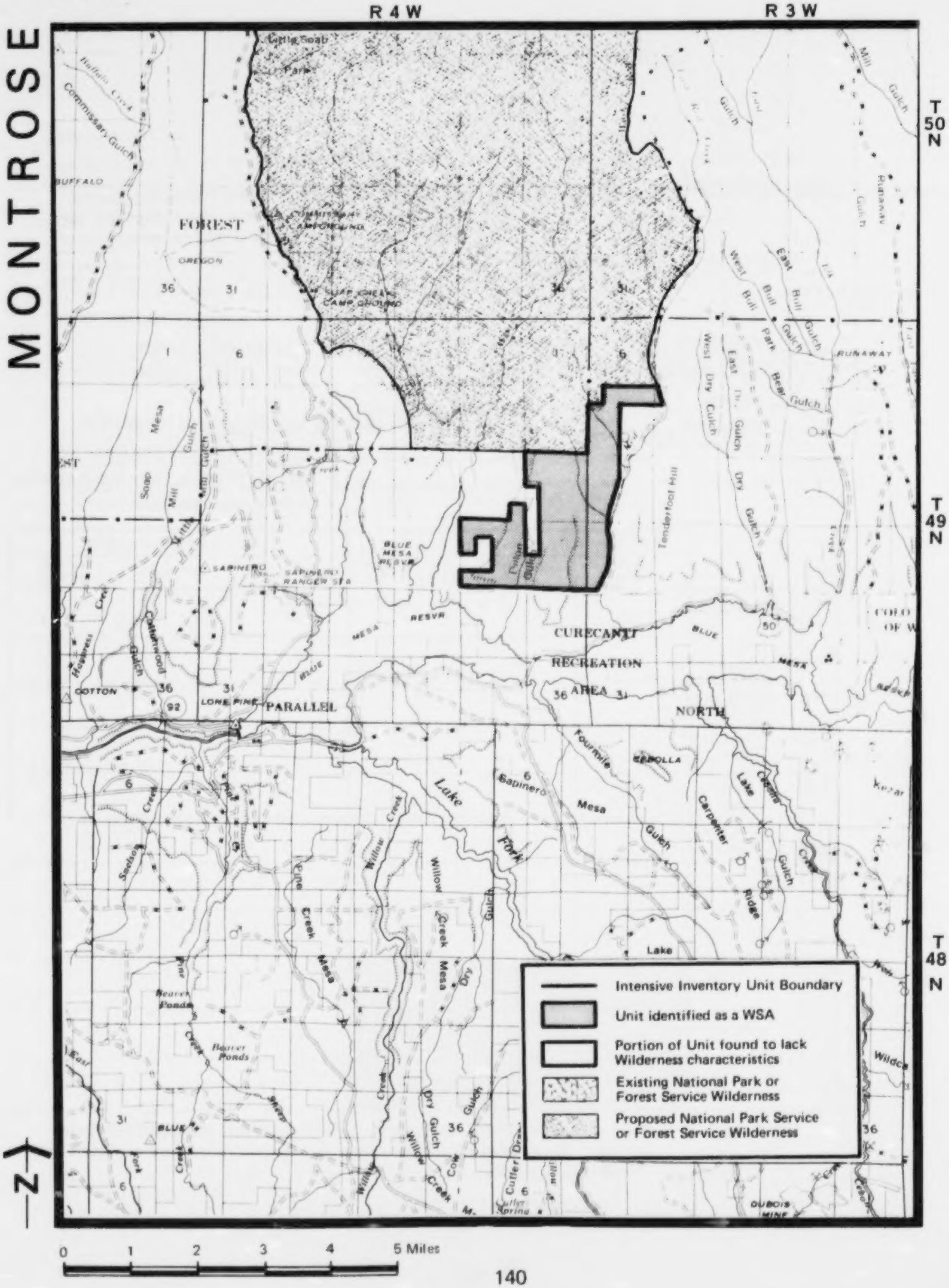
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

12 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
4 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
0 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	4			4		
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		2		2		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	7	2		9		
	OTHER	1			1		
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	12		
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	4		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨			

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-030-063 Dillon Mesa


MONTROSE
R 4 W
R 3 W
T 50 N
T 49 N
T 48 N
N
FOREST
CURECANTI
RECREATION
AREA
NORTH
PARALLEL
BLUE MESA RESVR
SAPINERO RANGER STA
Dillon Gulch
Tenderfoot Hill
Sapinero Mesa
Lake Fork
Willow Creek Mesa
Pine Creek Mesa
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

DILLON MESA

CO-030-063

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 2,520 acres intensively inventoried
2,520 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
2,520 acres identified as a WSA (adjacent to U.S. Forest Service RARE II Area #196 - 121,680 acres)

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____Yes _X_No

GENERAL LOCATION: Adjacent to Gunnison National Forest, north of Blue Mesa Reservoir (Gunnison County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Intensive Inventory 6/78: An accelerated intensive inventory for this unit was completed prior to the initiation of the Bureau-wide inventory because the unit was contained within a Special Project Area. Therefore, no initial inventory was conducted. This area contained 2,520 acres.

Proposed WSA Decision:
8/31/79: Following the public comment period (5/79 to 7/79), 2,520 acres were proposed as a WSA.

2/1/80: Additional intensive field study conducted during the summer of 1979 indicated that no boundary adjustments were necessary. Therefore, 2,520 acres were proposed as a WSA.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: Portions of the unit are leased for grazing. There are no known mining claims or easements. All the land within the unit is public land administered by the BLM. The unit is surrounded by a mixture of public and private land.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The Dillon Mesa unit consists of the relatively flat top of Dillon Mesa and the steep side slopes descending to the east and west boundary. The west arm of the mesa has unusual geological formations known as hoodoos which are upright fingers of eroded material with an erosion-resistant caprock on top. Vegetation is primarily sagebrush grassland with some oakbrush and cottonwood near the creeks.

Imprints of Man: The unit contains a way less than a mile in length ascending a side drainage of Red Creek. The way is substantially unnoticeable consisting of merely two tire tracks in some parts. It is revegetating and has a substantially unnoticeable effect on the naturalness of the unit.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Six of the letters received commented on the naturalness of the unit. Five of these letters agreed with the BLM's 2/1/80 recommendation that the area was natural. One comment said the area was unnatural because the town of Gunnison, along with the airport, were visible from within the unit. Outside sights and sounds are not considered during this phase of the wilderness inventory.

Two comments addressing the roadless criteria were received. One letter stated the unit is roadless. Another comment said there are hunting roads used by four-wheel drive vehicles within the unit; however, no specific locations for these roads are given. There is a vehicle way within the unit. It has not been constructed or maintained and is substantially unnoticeable.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: The unit by itself does not have outstanding opportunities for solitude due to its small size and single, dominant vegetative type. However, when considered in combination with RARE II Area #196, which contains 121,680 acres and is a natural extension of the unit, only then do outstanding opportunities for solitude exist.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Ten letters addressed the outstanding opportunities for solitude criteria. Six comments stated the unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. This agrees with the BLM's 2/1/80 recommendation. Another four comments felt the unit does not contain outstanding solitude due to the presence of sights and sounds outside of the unit, which included cars, airplanes and boats on Blue Mesa Reservoir. Outside influences are not considered during this phase of the wilderness inventory.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Due to the relatively small acreage and single, dominant vegetative type, the area does not by itself provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. However, the area is adjacent to, and is a natural extension of RARE II Area #196 (121,680 acres proposed by the Forest Service for wilderness). The unit contains outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation only when combined with USFS #196.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Four comments stated the unit offers outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. Hiking, birdwatching, photography and climbing are considered to be outstanding according to these comments. These comments support the BLM's 2/1/80 recommendation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: The hoodoos on the western leg of Dillon Mesa are highly scenic geological forms and are considered to add supplemental value to the unit, as does the critical winter range habitat for deer, elk and bighorn sheep.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Five comments stated that the unit contained supplemental values. Four of these statements said the unit contained interesting geologic values and critical winter habitat for big game. Another letter stated that the area was an important biogeographic hybrid zone that was needed for evolutionary studies.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

The unit is natural in character and no areas need rehabiltation. Two comments addressed reclamation potential. Both of these comments stated the unit was reclaiming itself naturally, and therefore, had potential for reclamation. One comment stated that a short, nutritious grass could be planted by hand.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The Dillow Mesa unit is essentially natural in character and is a natural extension of adjacent National Forest lands. Only in combination with the contiguous RARE II area would the unit provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The area, therefore, in combination with the Forest Service RARE II area, meets the criteria required of a Wilderness Study Area.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

One comment stated that wilderness designation would take away the tools of intensive management of grazing allotments. One comment was concerned about access for grazing if the area is designated as a WSA.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Dillon Mesa
CO 030 063

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 17

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 15
(Often one comment is endorsed by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

11 Personal Letters
___ Postcards
3 Public Comments Forms
3 Meetings
___ Phone Calls
___ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

16 Colorado
___ Utah
1 Other

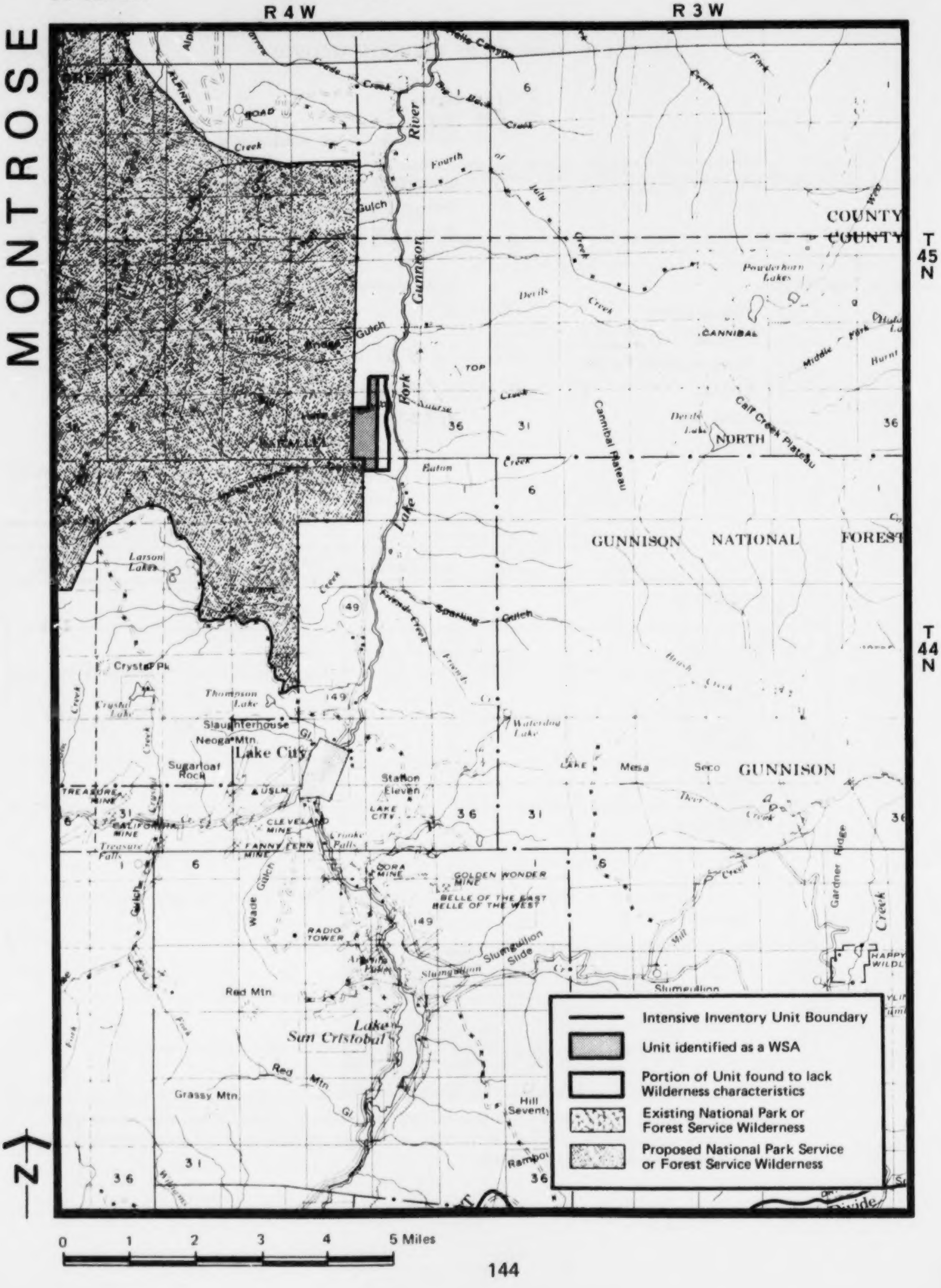
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

12 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
5 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
0 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	4			3		1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		2		2		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	7	3		10		
	OTHER	1			1		
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	11		1
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	5		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	0		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-030-085 Bill Hare Gulch


R 4 W
R 3 W
MONTROSE
T 45 N
T 44 N
N
COUNTY
COUNTY
Lake Fork Gunnison River
Gulch
High Bridge Gulch
Devils Creek
Powderhorn Lakes
CANNIBAL
Cannibal Plateau
Devils Lake
NORTH
Calf Creek Plateau
Middle Fork
GUNNISON NATIONAL FOREST
Larson Lakes
Sparling Gulch
Crystal Pk
Crystal Lake
Thompson Lake
Slaughterhouse Gl
Neoga Mtn
Lake City
Sugarloaf Rock
Station Eleven
Waterdog Lake
Mesa
Seco
GUNNISON
TREASURE MINE
CALIFORNIA MINE
CLEVELAND MINE
FANNY FERN MINE
Treasure Falls
Crooke Falls
DORA MINE
GOLDEN WONDER MINE
BELLE OF THE EAST
BELLE OF THE WEST
Wade Gulch
RADIO TOWER
Slumgullion Slide
Slumgullion
Red Mtn
Lake San Cristobal
Red Mtn Gl
Grassy Mtn
Hill Seventy
Gardner Ridge
Creek
149
49
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

CO-030-085
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

BILL HARE GULCH

CO-030-085

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 400 acres intensively inventoried
400 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendations
350 acres identified as a WSA (adjacent to U.S. Forest Service proposed Big Blue Wilderness - 37,095 acres)

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: X Yes ___ No

Additions 0 acres Deletions 100 acres
(as result of public comments)

GENERAL LOCATION: Adjacent to Uncompahgre National Forest - North of Lake City (Hinsdale County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Intensive Inventory 9/78: An accelerated intensive inventory for this unit was completed prior to the initiation of the Bureau-wide inventory because the unit was contained within a Special Project Area. Therefore, no initial inventory was conducted. 400 acres were included within the unit.

Proposed WSA Decision:
8/31/79: Following the public comment period (5/79 to 7/79), 400 acres were proposed as a WSA.

2/1/80: Additional intensive field study conducted during the summer of 1979 indicated that no boundary adjustments were necessary. Therefore, 400 acres were proposed as a WSA.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: All land within the unit is public land administered by the BLM. There are no known leases, mining claims or easements within the unit. The unit is surrounded by a mixture of private and National Forest lands.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The unit includes the lower end of three gulches whose upper portions are contiguous to Forest Service lands. The terrain is steep with limited access. The vegetation consists of aspen and conifers with oakbrush and other shrubs along the drainages.

Imprints of Man: The area contains no substantial imprints of man and remains natural in character.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Four comments were received addressing the naturalness of the unit. One comment stated that a road and maintained irrigation ditches are found within the unit and affect the area's natural appearance. A field check in July 1980 found a road, irrigation ditch and large stock pond within the boundary of the proposed WSA. These imprints are now excluded from the unit as they are situated along the eastern boundary of the unit. The road, consisting of a 20-foot wide cut, has been constructed and maintained. Three comments stated the unit contains no substantial imprints of man and gave no new information.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: The area contains 350 acres which would not by itself provide outstanding opportunities for solitude; however, the area is adjacent to the 37,095-acre Big Blue RARE II area proposed by the Forest Service for wilderness designation. This area would provide large acreage, vegetative screening, and vast vistas that would enhance solitude opportunities. These areas in combination would provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Five comments were received concerning solitude in the unit; four stated that outstanding opportunities for solitude were present in the unit. One comment said that outstanding opportunities were not present because of noise from adjacent State Highway 149 and aircraft flying overhead; these outside sights and sounds cannot be considered during the "inventory" phase, but will be taken into account during the upcoming "study" phase of the wilderness process. One comment noted that limited accessibility increased opportunities for solitude.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: The unit by itself does not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation; however, the contiguous Forest Service RARE II lands which are a natural extension of the unit, provide a large additional acreage containing rugged, forested terrain and high mountain peaks. This combined acreage would provide numerous outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, such as hiking, backpacking, horseback riding and cross-country skiing.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Two comments were recorded concerning opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Both stated that the unit met this requirement.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: The area contains no supplemental values.

Evaluation of Public Comments: One comment was received stating the unit had supplemental value due to the abundant deer population.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

No portions of the unit require rehabilitation. No comments address this issue.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The Bill Hare Gulch unit meets all the criteria of a wilderness study area. Though the unit's size is less than 5,000 acres, it is contiguous with the Big Blue RARE II area proposed by the Forest Service for wilderness designation, thus meeting size requirements. The area is substantially free of man's imprints and is primarily affected by the forces of nature. When considered with contiguous National Forest land, which is a natural topographic and vegetative extension of the unit, the area offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

One comment was received saying the vehicle traffic on the adjacent highway and the overhead air traffic would detract from the wilderness experience. One comment noted the area had good access from the highway.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Bill Hare Gulch
CO 030 085

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 11

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 11
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

9 Personal Letters
___ Postcards
1 Public Comments Forms
1 Meetings
___ Phone Calls
___ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

10 Colorado
0 Utah
1 Other

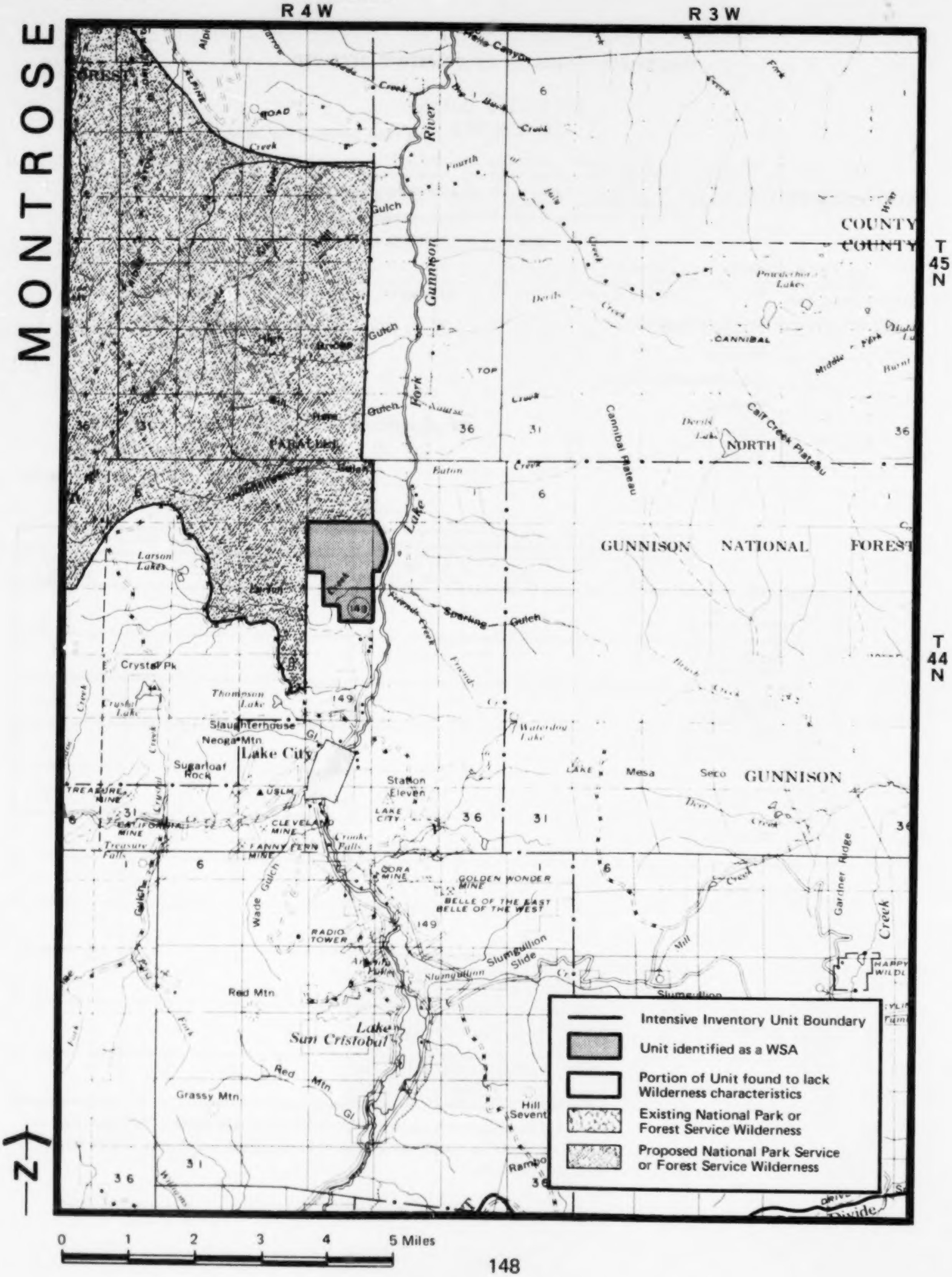
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

10 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
0 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	4			3		1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS						
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	6	1		7		
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	9		1
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	1		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨			

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-030-086 Larson Creek



R 4 W
R 3 W
T 45 N
T 44 N
MONTROSE
N
COUNTY
COUNTY
GUNNISON NATIONAL FOREST
GUNNISON
Lake Fork Gunnison River
Larson Lakes
Crystal Pk
Thompson Lake
Slaughterhouse Gl
Neoga Mtn
Lake City
Sugarloaf Rock
Station Eleven
Cannibal Plateau
Calf Creek Plateau
Devils Lake
Powderhorn Lakes
Waterdog Lake
Mesa Seco
Gardner Ridge
Slumgullion Slide
Red Mtn
Lake San Cristobal
Grassy Mtn
Red Mtn Gl
Wade Gulch
Sparling Gulch
Divide
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

LARSON CREEK

CO-030-086

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 880 acres intensively inventoried
880 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
880 acres identified as a WSA (adjacent to U.S. Forest Service proposed Big Blue Wilderness - 37,095 acres)

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____Yes _X_ No

GENERAL LOCATION: Adjacent to Uncompahgre National Forest - North of Lake City (Hinsdale County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Intensive Inventory 9/78: An accelerated intensive inventory for this unit was completed prior to the initiation of the Bureau-wide inventory because the unit was contained within a Special Project Area. Therefore, no initial inventory was conducted. This unit included 880 acres.

Proposed WSA Decision:
8/31/79: Following the public comment period (5/79 to 5/79), 880 acres were proposed as a WSA.

2/1/80: Additional intensive field study conducted during the summer of 1979 indicated that no boundary adjustments were necessary. Therefore, 880 acres were proposed as a WSA.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: All lands within the unit are public lands administered by the BLM. It is surrounded by a mixture of public, private and National Forest Service lands. There are no known mining claims, easements or leases within the unit.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The unit includes the lower end of three gulches whose upper portions are contiguous to Forest Service lands. The terrain is steep with limited access. The vegetation consists of aspen and conifers with oakbrush and other shrubs along the drainages.

Imprints of Man: The area contains no substantial imprints of man and remains natural in character.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Three letters stated the unit is natural in character. These comments concur with the BLM's 2/1/80 decision, but did not furnish additional information. Two comments addressing roads were received. One comment said there is a constructed and maintained road heading up to Larson and Crystal Lakes. A road, once constructed and maintained, did cross Forest Service land but no road crosses the Larson Creek unit. Another comment indicated the area is completely roadless.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: On its own, this unit is too small (880 acres) to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. However, the area is contiguous with a 37,095-acre Forest Service proposed wilderness area #908 (Big Blue). Within this large combined land area, dense vegetation and rough topography would provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Six of the letters received addressed the opportunities for solitude. Five of these letters concurred with the BLM's 2/1/80 decision which proposed the area contained outstanding opportunities for solitude. One comment stated the area lacked solitude because of the outside influences of an airstrip and the adjacent highway. Outside sights and sounds are not considered during this phase of the wilderness inventory.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: By itself, the unit does not provide outstanding recreation opportunities. However, in conjunction with the adjacent Forest Service proposed wilderness, there would be outstanding opportunities for such primitive and unconfined recreation activities as hiking, backpacking, fishing, hunting, horseback riding and cross-country skiing. The combined area contains a large acreage of rugged mountain terrain with numerous forested drainages and high mountain peaks which would enhance recreation opportunities in the Larson Creek unit.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Three letters said the unit contained outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. These statements agreed with the BLM's 2/1/80 decision, and did not offer additional information.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: There are no known supplemental values within the unit.

Evaluation of Public Comments: One letter said the unit contained an abundant deer herd, but the BLM does not have any specific information substantiating this statement.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

No imprints within the unit require active rehabilitation. No comments addressed the reclamation potential of the unit.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

This unit, consisting of 880 acres of public land, does not (by itself) satisfy the size requirement for a WSA. However, it is contiguous with a 37,095-acre proposed Forest Service wilderness, therefore being of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. In conjunction with the contiguous Forest Service land containing numerous forested drainages and high mountain peaks, there would be outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The unit meets the criteria of a Wilderness Study Area.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

One letter discussed the presence of developments outside of the area in terms of how it affected wilderness characteristics.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Larson Creek
CO 030 086

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 12

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 12
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

10 Personal Letters
Postcards
1 Public Comments Forms
1 Meetings
Phone Calls
Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

12 Colorado
0 Utah
0 Other

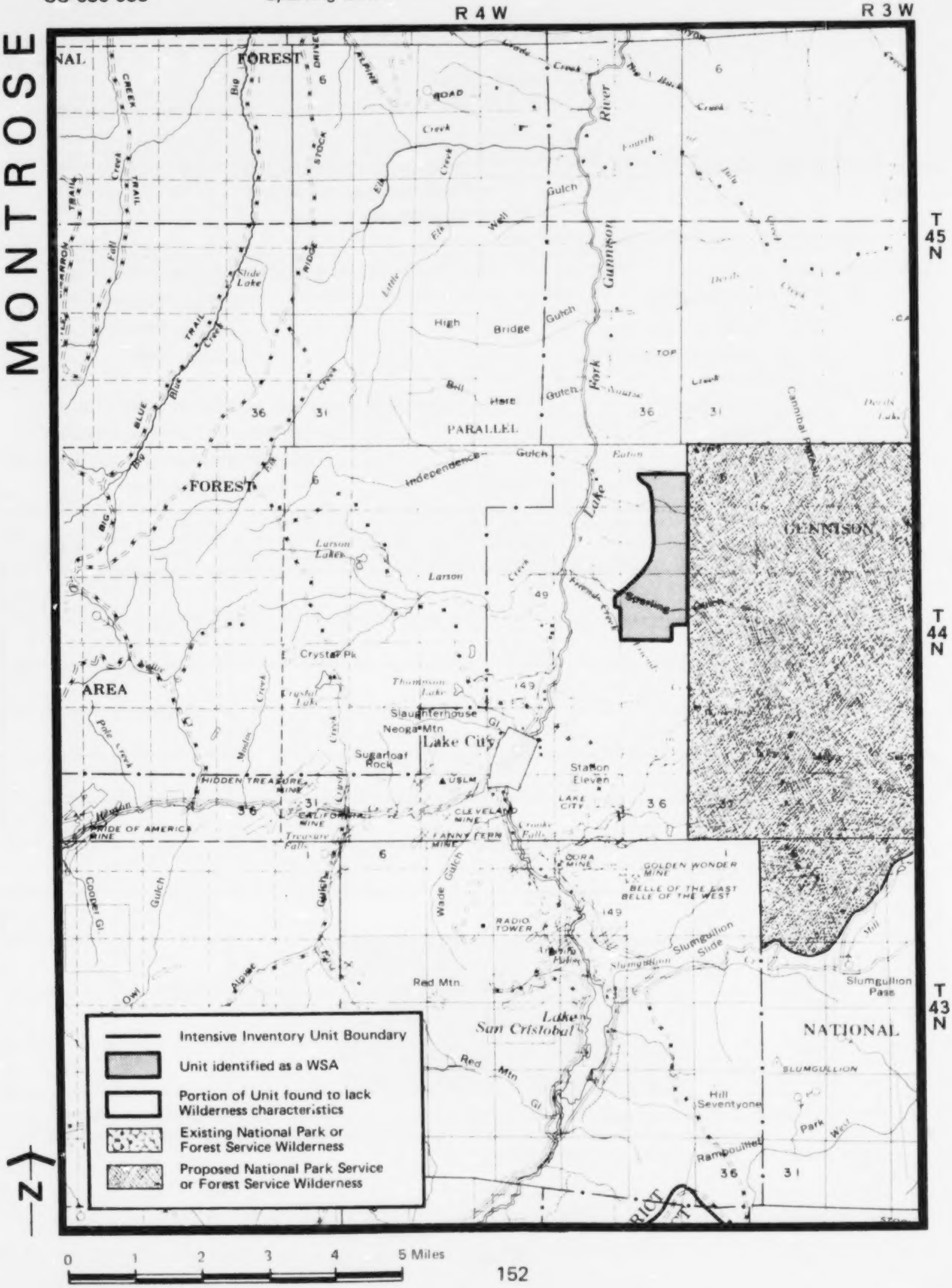
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

10 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
2 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
0 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	3			3		
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		1		1		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	7	1		8		
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	10		
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	2		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	0		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-030-088 Sparling Gulch


R 4 W
R 3 W
T 45 N
T 44 N
T 43 N
MONTROSE
N
FOREST
FOREST
AREA
NATIONAL
GUNNISON
PARALLEL
Lake City
Lake San Cristobal
Sparling Gulch
Lake Fork Gunnison River
Independence Gulch
Larson Lakes
Crystal Pk
Slaughterhouse Gl
Neoga Mtn
Sugarloaf Rock
Station Eleven
HIDDEN TREASURE MINE
PRIDE OF AMERICA MINE
CALIFORNIA MINE
CLEVELAND MINE
FANNY FERN MINE
GOLDEN WONDER MINE
BELLE OF THE EAST
BELLE OF THE WEST
RADIO TOWER
Slumgullion Slide
Slumgullion Pass
Red Mtn.
Hill Seventyone
Rambouillet Park
High Bridge Gulch
Bell Hole Gulch
Big Blue Creek
Cannibal Plateau
149
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

CO-030-088
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

SPARLING GULCH

CO-030-088

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 1,120 acres intensively inventoried
1,120 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
1,120 acres identified as a WSA (adjacent to U.S. Forest Service RARE II Area #218 - 31,990 acres)

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____Yes X No

GENERAL LOCATION: Adjacent to Gunnison National Forest - North of Lake City (Hinsdale County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Intensive Inventory 9/78: An accelerated intensive inventory for this unit was completed prior to the initiation of the Bureau-wide inventory because the unit was contained within a Special Project Area. Therefore, no initial inventory was conducted. This unit contained 1,120 acres.

Proposed WSA Decision:
8/31/79: Following the public comment period (5/79 to 7/79), 1,120 acres were proposed as a WSA.

2/1/80: Additional intensive field study conducted during the summer of 1979 indicated that no boundary adjustments were necessary. Therefore, 1,120 acres were proposed as a WSA.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: All lands within the unit are public lands administered by the BLM. It is surrounded by a mixture of public, private and National Forest Service lands. There are no known mining claims or easements within the unit. Portions of the unit are leased for grazing. The unit is adjacent to USFS RARE II Area #218 (31,990 acres) proposed for further planning for Wilderness.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The Sparling Gulch unit consists of a few drainages and side slopes of the Cannibal Plateau. The side slopes are sparsely vegetated with sagebrush and grasses. Some small isolated stands of aspen are found in this grassland area near the top of the plateau. In contrast, the drainages support thick stands of aspen and spruce.

Imprints of Man: A few ways ascend to the plateau but they have little impact upon the naturalness of the unit due to revegetation. Another way parallels Sparling Gulch, but it is also returning to a natural condition. Its impact upon the naturalness of the unit is negligible due to revegetation, vegetative screening and topographic screening. The area has been determined to be primarily affected by the forces of nature with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Four comments were received which agreed with BLM's determination that the unit is primarily natural in character. One comment stated the unit is roadless. One comment was received stating the unit contains a road up Sparling Gulch and irrigation channels from Waterdog Lake. The vehicle route up Sparling Gulch has been previously evaluated and is considered to be an unmaintained way. Within the unit, there are no irrigation ditches considered to be substantially noticeable affecting the natural character of the landscape.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: The small size of the unit, along with the lack of topographic and vegetative diversity, would not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. However, when considered in combination with the adjacent RARE II Area #218 (further study area) which contains rugged, mountain terrain and dense subalpine forest vegetation, the unit would provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Five comments were received which agreed with BLM's determination that the unit contains outstanding opportunities for solitude. One comment stated the unit does not have outstanding opportunities for solitude because it would affect a Forest Service agreement to allow motorized access on adjoining land and the unit is adjacent to an airstrip and planned development areas. Under wilderness interim management, motorized vehicle use is allowed to continue on existing ways as long as that use does not impair the wilderness suitability of the unit. The BLM will work closely with the Forest Service making future land-use decisions concerning such issues as access. Outside sights and sounds are not considered during this phase of the wilderness review process.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: This unit is too small and does not contain sufficient diversity of vegetation and topography by itself to provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. However, it is an extension of the contiguous RARE II area which contains a large acreage of rugged mountain terrain. The combined area would provide outstanding opportunities for diverse primitive and unconfined recreation; primarily this includes hiking, backpacking, cross-country skiing and horseback riding.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Five comments were received which stated the unit contains outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. No new information was given. No comments were received which stated otherwise.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: No known supplemental values were found within the unit.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Three comments were received regarding supplemental values but were specifically addressed to the Slumgullion Slide which is included in Unit CO-030-211.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

There are no imprints of man within the unit requiring active rehabilitation. No comments were received addressing this issue.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

When considered in combination with RARE II AREA #218 (further study area) and the Powderhorn Instant Wilderness Study Area, recommended for wilderness by the BLM, the Sparling Gulch unit meets the criteria for a Wilderness Study Area. Because of its contiguous nature with these potential wilderness areas, it contains sufficient acreage to meet size requirements. It is free of substantially noticeable imprints of man and is primarily affected by the forces of nature. Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation are possible within the topographic and vegetative diversity provided by the adjacent lands.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

One comment was received regarding conflicts with motorized vehicular access and WSA designation. One comment cited outside sights and sounds as a potential conflict.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Sparling Gulch
CO 030 088

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 14

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 13
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

10 Personal Letters
____ Postcards
2 Public Comments Forms
2 Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

13 Colorado
____ Utah
1 Other

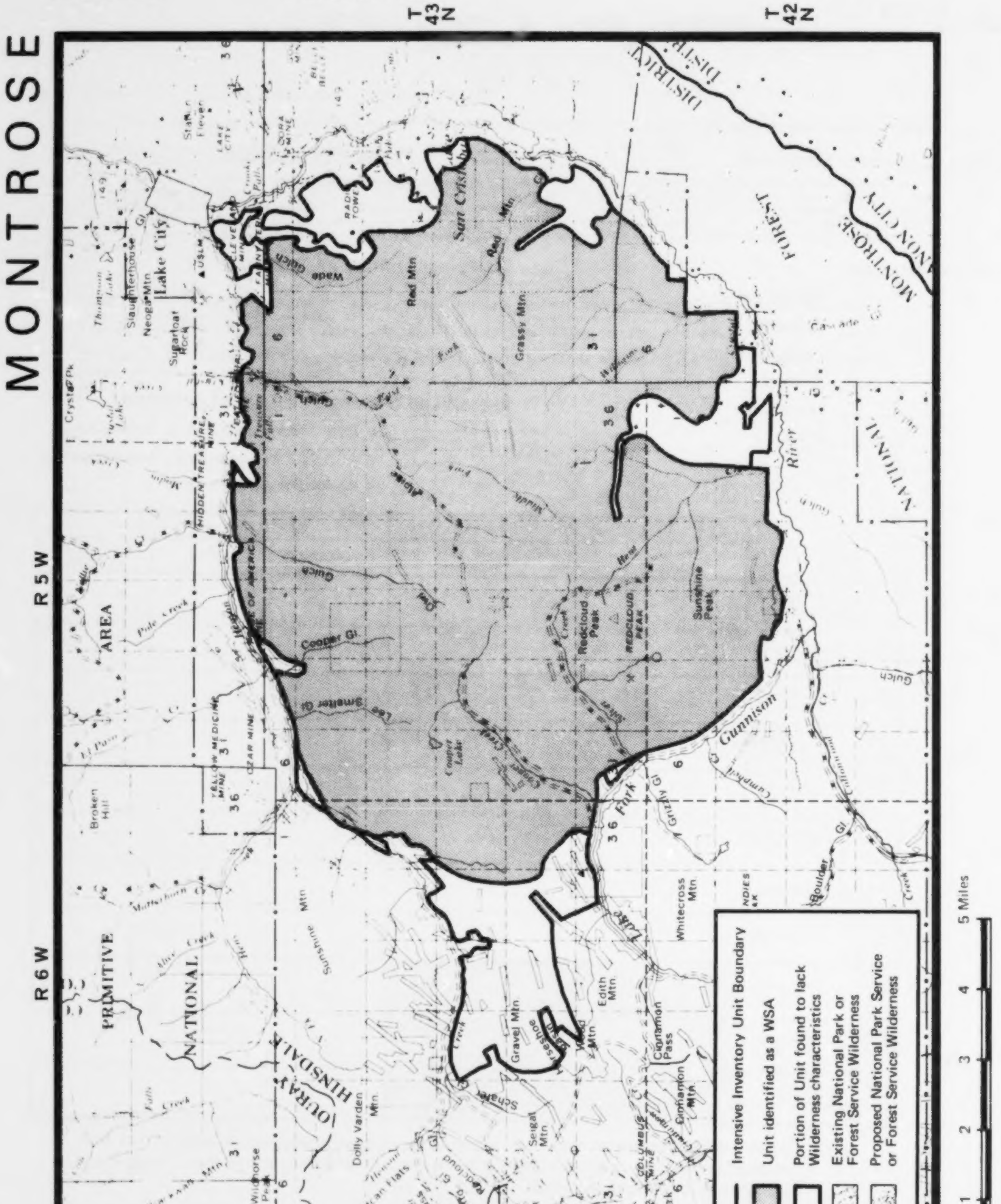
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

13 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
____ # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	2			2		
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS						
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	11	1		11		1
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	12		1
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	1		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨			

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-030-208 Red Cloud Peak


MONTROSE
T 43 N
T 42 N
R 5 W
R 6 W
Lake City
San Cristobal
Red Mtn
Grassy Mtn
Redcloud Peak
Sunshine Peak
Gunnison
Fork
Lake
PRIMITIVE
AREA
NATIONAL
FOREST
HINSDALE
OURAY
MONTROSE
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles
N

CO-030-208
Unit Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

REDCLOUD PEAK

CO-030-208

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 38,100 acres intensively inventoried
33,860 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
32,800 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: X Yes ____ No

Additions ____ acres Deletions 1,060 acres
(as result of public comments)

GENERAL LOCATION: Southwest of Lake City (Hinsdale County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Intensive Inventory 7/78: An accelerated intensive inventory for this unit was completed prior to the initiation of the Bureau-wide inventory because the unit was contained within a Special Project Area. Therefore, no initial inventory was conducted. This area contained 38,100 acres.

Proposed WSA Decision:
8/31/79: Following the public comment period (5/79 to 7/79), 33,860 acres were proposed as a WSA. Previous acreage calculations were found to be incorrect; therefore, only 33,860 acres were included, even though no boundary adjustments were made.

2/1/80: Additional intensive field study conducted during the summer of 1979 indicated that no boundary adjustments were necessary. Therefore, 33,860 acres were proposed as a WSA.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: The Redcloud Peak inventory unit encompasses approximately 32,800 acres of public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management. There are approximately 280 acres of private inholdings, mostly in the form of patented mining claims, but these are not considered in the unit acreage or inventoried for wilderness characteristics. Both patented and unpatented mining claims are dispersed throughout the unit. Portions of the unit are also leased for grazing. The unit is surrounded by a mixture of public BLM lands and private lands.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The rugged topography of the unit consists of steep drainages radiating from numerous mountain peaks as high as 14,034 feet. The vegetation varies with altitude, with fir, spruce and aspen occupying many of the lower elevation drainages and slopes, and fading into alpine tundra in the higher basins.

Imprints of Man: The unit is primarily natural in character and contains only minor imprints of man. Four ways are found within the unit, three of which are impassable to four-wheel, motorized vehicles. Some old mining adits and prospects and associated log cabin remnants found within the unit are not substantially noticeable and can be considered of historical value.

Evaluation of Public Comments: A total of twelve comments were received which agreed with BLM's determination that the unit is primarily natural in character. Three comments were received which state the unit is not primarily natural in appearance. There were also six comments received stating the unit contains roads. Three of these comments state there is a road up Alpine Gulch, constructed in the 1950s which is maintained. Field evaluation in July and August, 1980 could find no evidence of maintenance. Spruce and aspen trees, over six feet in height, are growing in the middle of the once existing road. In addition, this access route crosses Alpine Gulch and is washed out in several locations. Present use is by foot or horseback. This route is considered a substantially unnoticeable way which is screened by topography and relatively dense stands of aspen and spruce. One comment states there is a road up Red Mountain Gulch to the Pueblo Placer. After field evaluation, it was determined that a road exists a portion of the way up Red Mountain Gulch. The road ends approximately 750 feet short of the Pueblo Placer (patented mining claim). The road and a previously bulldozed way near the mouth of Red Mountain Gulch are both excluded. One comment stated there is a road to Williams Creek and to Bent Creek. There is a bulldozed way, cut in aspen and some spruce trees, originally for use as a ditch to transport water. A right-of-way was never issued and no maintenance is performed on this way which is closed to motorized use and whose upper end is blocked by fallen trees. Because this way is within a heavy stand of aspen, it is substantially unnoticeable. A substantially noticeable way begins at Castle Lakes and culminates on a ridge between Bent Creek and the East Fork of Bent Creek. This way was originally constructed by bulldozer but does not appear to be maintained. Located primarily on south-facing slopes and in the alpine tundra, the imprint is highly visible within the context of the immediate area. Thus, this way is determined to be substantially noticeable and is excluded from the unit. The comment regarding a road up William Creek and Bent Creek also states that a road goes onto the top of Grassy Mountain. There is no road or vehicle way on Grassy Mountain. One comment states there is a road up Cooper Creek and a road from Roundtop to Hotchkiss Mountain. There is a foot and horse trail which, in places, follows an old way one mile up Cooper Creek. This way has not been maintained to insure relatively regular and continuous use and in several places, revegetation has occurred. This way is substantially unnoticeable. There are two vehicle ways south of Roundtop, including an old logged-over area. Because of the cumulative impacts, a small portion of the unit is excluded.

Other comments regarding roads within the unit are general in nature and give no specific information or location. Two comments were received which state the unit is roadless. Comments received which state the unit is not natural cite the evidence of discovery pits, shafts and old buildings. Many of these imprints of man are on private lands or are of historical value. These imprints are substantially unnoticeable.

Although no comments were received specifically regarding the northern boundary of the Redcloud unit, some boundary adjustments were made during field evaluation in July and August, 1980. Due to extensive motor vehicle camping, large remnants of an old mine, and a BLM corral, the boundary near Capitol City now parallels Henson Creek. Roads providing access to the Pride of America Mine in Copper Gulch and Big Casino Gulch resulted in an exclusion. A small area was excluded west of Henson to remove bulldozer scrapings. The boundary is now drawn along Henson Creek between Treasure Falls and Alpine Gulch to exclude heavy day use areas (motorized vehicles) and remnants of large mining structures. One small area was excluded at the mouth of Silver Creek as the area contains old mining structures and mine dumps and much of the area is used as a parking lot by individuals climbing Handies, Redcloud and Sunshine Peaks.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Due to the rugged mountain terrain and vegetative variety contained within the unit, outstanding opportunities for solitude exist. Vegetative and topographic screening within the drainages and along the lower elevation slopes provide areas of seclusion and intimacy. In the higher elevations, the mountainous terrain with its expanses of alpine tundra and open scenic vistas projects feelings of vastness, which contributes to outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Fifteen comments agreed with BLM's determination that the unit contains outstanding opportunities for solitude. Four comments state the area does not contain outstanding opportunities for solitude. One statement cited the flight of aircraft over the area limits solitude opportunities. Another comment explained that the presence of Lake San Cristobal inhibits opportunities for solitude because of its large volume of motorized boat use. Outside sights and sounds are not considered in the inventory phase of the Wilderness Review Process, but may be taken into account during the study phase. One statement cited the presence of exploration work and mining claims acts to limit solitude. Exploration work is limited to specific locations and does not affect the entire unit or all areas where opportunities for solitude are found. One comment stated that irregular boundaries and "cherrystemmed" roads do not offer opportunities for solitude which concurs with BLM's assessment. These considerations will be evaluated during the study phase.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: The topographic and vegetative diversity within the unit, as well as the high scenic quality of the mountainous terrain, provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Recreation activities possible within the unit include hiking, backpacking, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, mountain climbing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, photography and sightseeing.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Seventeen comments were received which agreed with BLM's determination that the unit contains outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. One comment was received which stated the unit does not contain outstanding opportunities for recreation due to the presence of exploration activity and mining claims. Exploration work is limited to specific locations and does not affect the entire unit or all areas where opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are found.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: The outstanding scenic quality of this mountain terrain with high mountain peaks and alpine lakes and streams, is considered a supplemental value.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eleven comments were received stating the area contains supplemental values. Examples cited were historic values, unique ecological values, high scenic attraction, interesting geologic formations and habitat for deer, elk, bighorn sheep and mountain goats. No comments were received stating the unit does not contain supplemental values.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

None of the imprints of man within this unit require active rehabilitation. Five comments were received stating that ways and mineral exploration activity in the unit have reclamation potential using hand labor or natural processes. No comments were received stating the unit could not be reclaimed.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The unit contains a large tract of land of natural character making it practicable to preserve and use in an unimpaired condition. Its rugged topography and diverse vegetation provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The high scenic quality of the area adds supplemental value to the unit. The unit meets all the criteria required of a Wilderness Study Area.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

Thirteen comments were received stating the area should not be designated a WSA because of mining conflicts. Two comments cited grazing as a conflict. Two comments expressed feeling that outside sights and sounds would be in conflict with the unit being designated a WSA. One comment noted that mining activity devastates native flora and fauna and protection of the area would save minerals for a less destructive generation.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Red Cloud Peak
CO 030 208

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 45

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 45
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:
29 Personal Letters
Postcards
11 Public Comments Forms
5 Meetings
Phone Calls
Other

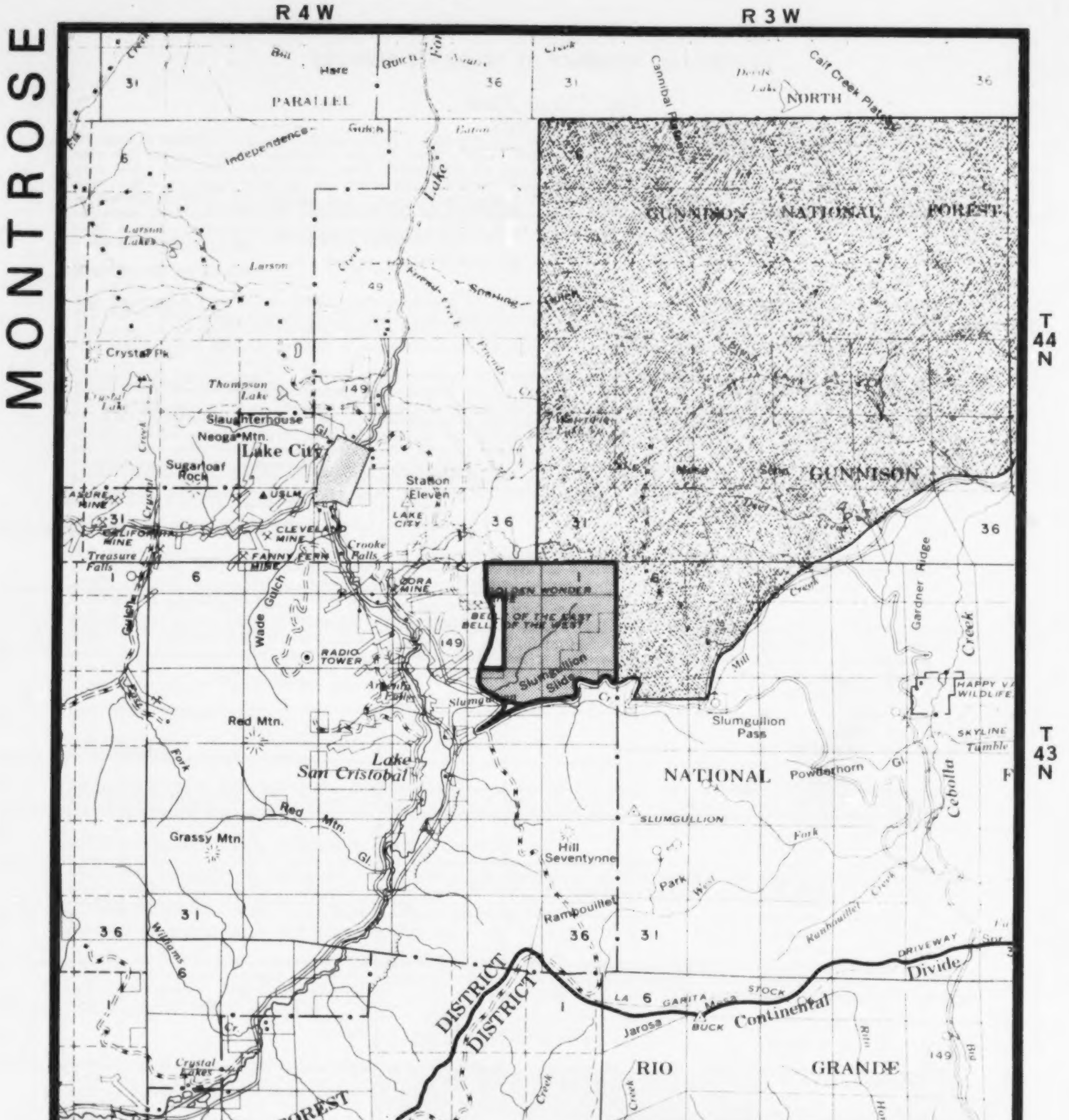
GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:
38 Colorado
1 Utah
6 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:
30 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
14 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	7			4	1	2
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		7		5		2
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.		1		1		
	STATE GOVT.			1	1		
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	23	6		27		2
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	25	1	4
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	12		2
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	1		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-030-211 Slumgullion Slide


MONTROSE
R 4 W
R 3 W
T 44 N
T 43 N
GUNNISON NATIONAL FOREST
Lake City
Slumgullion Slide
Slumgullion Pass
Lake San Cristobal
RIO GRANDE
NATIONAL FOREST
MONTROSE DISTRICT
CANON CITY DISTRICT
Continental Divide
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
N
0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles

CO-030-211
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

SLUMGULLION SLIDE

CO-030-211

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 1,960 acres intensively inventoried
1,890 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
1,640 acres identified as a WSA (adjacent to U.S. Forest Service RARE II Area #218 - 31,990 acres)

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: X Yes ___ No

Additions 0 acres Deletions 250 acres
(as a result of public comments)

GENERAL LOCATION: Adjacent to Gunnison National Forest southwest of Lake City (Hinsdale County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Intensive Inventory:
8/78: An accelerated intensive inventory for this unit was completed prior to the initiation of the Bureau-wide inventory because the unit was contained within a Special Project Area. Therefore, no initial inventory was conducted. This unit contained 1,960 acres.

8/31/79: Following the public comment period (5/79 to 7/79), 1,960 acres were proposed as a WSA.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: Additional intensive field study conducted during the summer of 1979 resulted in several boundary modifications. Approximately 30 acres were deleted from the southern portion due to its narrow configuration. Another 40 acres were deleted from the western portion of the unit in order to exclude an area that contained a constructed road and evidence of past mining activity. Following these boundary adjustments, 1,890 acres were proposed as a WSA.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: The Slumgullion Slide unit contains approximately 1,640 acres of public lands which are contiguous with the 31,990-acre U.S. Forest Service RARE II Area #218 (proposed for further wilderness study), thus meeting size requirements for wilderness study. There are no known patented claims within the unit. A portion of the unit is leased for the grazing of cattle. This unit also contains 720 acres of a National Natural Landmark withdrawal, covering the Slumgullion Slide Earthflow. The unit is surrounded by private lands, BLM public lands and Forest Service lands.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The majority of the unit is forested with spruce, aspen and Douglas fir. However, several meadows up to 100 acres in size are within the unit. The Slumgullion Earthflow is in the southern portion of the unit. Most of the unit is steep, rising from 9,600 feet to 10,700 feet within a mile.

Imprints of Man: Imprints of man appear to be minor. There is an old fence line and about ½ mile of way that is impassable to vehicles. Most of this is within a densely forested area and is screened from view. Another way is substantially unnoticeable and is a two-wheel vehicle track. The unit appears to be primarily natural in character with man's work substantially unnoticeable.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eight comments were received concerning naturalness. Two stated that roads can be seen along the southern boundary; these roads are outside the unit and are not a part of the inventory phase evaluation. They will be considered during the study phase of the wilderness process. Two comments also stated there are roads in the unit; field checks found the routes are not maintained for relatively regular and continuous use, thus not meeting the road criteria. A boundary adjustment was made in the western portion of the unit to exclude mining activity and substantially noticeable ways that once were bulldozed and lack vegetative or topographic screening. Comments stating that man's imprints in the unit are substantially unnoticeable were received in four letters.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: The area contains 1,640 acres, most of which are densely forested with spruce, aspen and Douglas fir. Several meadows within the unit are surrounded by these forested areas, and screen users from one another. Outstanding opportunities for solitude can be found within the Slumgullion Slide unit, especially when considered with the contiguous 31,990 acres of National Forest lands being recommended for further wilderness study.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Seven comments were received concerning opportunities for solitude. Six stated that outstanding opportunities were present because of the unit's ruggedness, outstanding views and its contiguity to the USFS RARE II Area #218 proposed for further wilderness study. One comment said that outstanding opportunities for solitude were not present due to the presence of motorized boating on Lake San Cristobal which is outside the unit. Outside sights and sounds are not considered during the inventory phase evaluation, but will be taken into account in the study phase of the wilderness review process.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Opportunities for primitive recreation do exist within the unit, such as hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, photography and sightseeing. The Slumgullion Earthflow is an outstanding natural feature for photography and sightseeing; however, the unit alone does not provide for outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The combined acreage of public and National Forest lands offers outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Five comments were received stating outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation for hiking and climbing were present in the unit, especially when considered in conjunction with the USFS RARE II Area #218 being further studied for wilderness potential. No comments were received stating outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation were not present.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: This area contains the major portion (2½ miles) of the Slumgullion Earthflow, which originates on the western edge of Cannibal Plateau, and flows about 4½ miles into the valley, blocking the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River, creating Lake San Cristobal. This action took place about 1270 A.D. with a smaller earthflow, which is still active, occurring about 350 years ago. This active flow moves about 0.48 inches per day and this is evidenced by trees growing on an angle, while the trees growing on the inactive flow are straight. This earthflow provides an excellent supplemental value for geologic and scenic interests.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eight comments addressed the presence of outstanding geologic and scenic values in the unit with two of the letters also stressing the educational potential of the earthflow.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

Imprints appear to be minor without a need for active rehabilitation. No comments addressed this issue. The portion of the unit excluded cannot be rehabilitated utilizing hand labor or natural processes within a timely manner.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

Slumgullion Slide unit is 1,640 acres of public lands contiguous with 31,990 acres of Forest Service lands recommended for further wilderness study. The combined area is of sufficient size to make practicable its management in an unimpaired condition. Outstanding opportunities for solitude exist within the unit. Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation exist within the combined 33,630 acres of public and Forest lands which contain dense forest and rugged mountain terrain. The unit also contains supplemental values associated with the Slumgullion Earthflow. This unit meets the criteria required of a Wilderness Study Area.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

Ten comments were received concerning non-inventory information--four stated the unit contained mineral values, two stated the unit was leased for grazing, and one stated that a potential powerline could cross the unit. The remaining three comments addressed outside sights and sounds, two of the road along the south boundary and one of the activity on Lake San Cristobal. One comment requested a buffer zone for highway expansion.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Slumgullion Slide
CO 030 211

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 21

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 24
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:
15 Personal Letters
______ Postcards
3 Public Comments Forms
3 Meetings
______ Phone Calls
______ Other

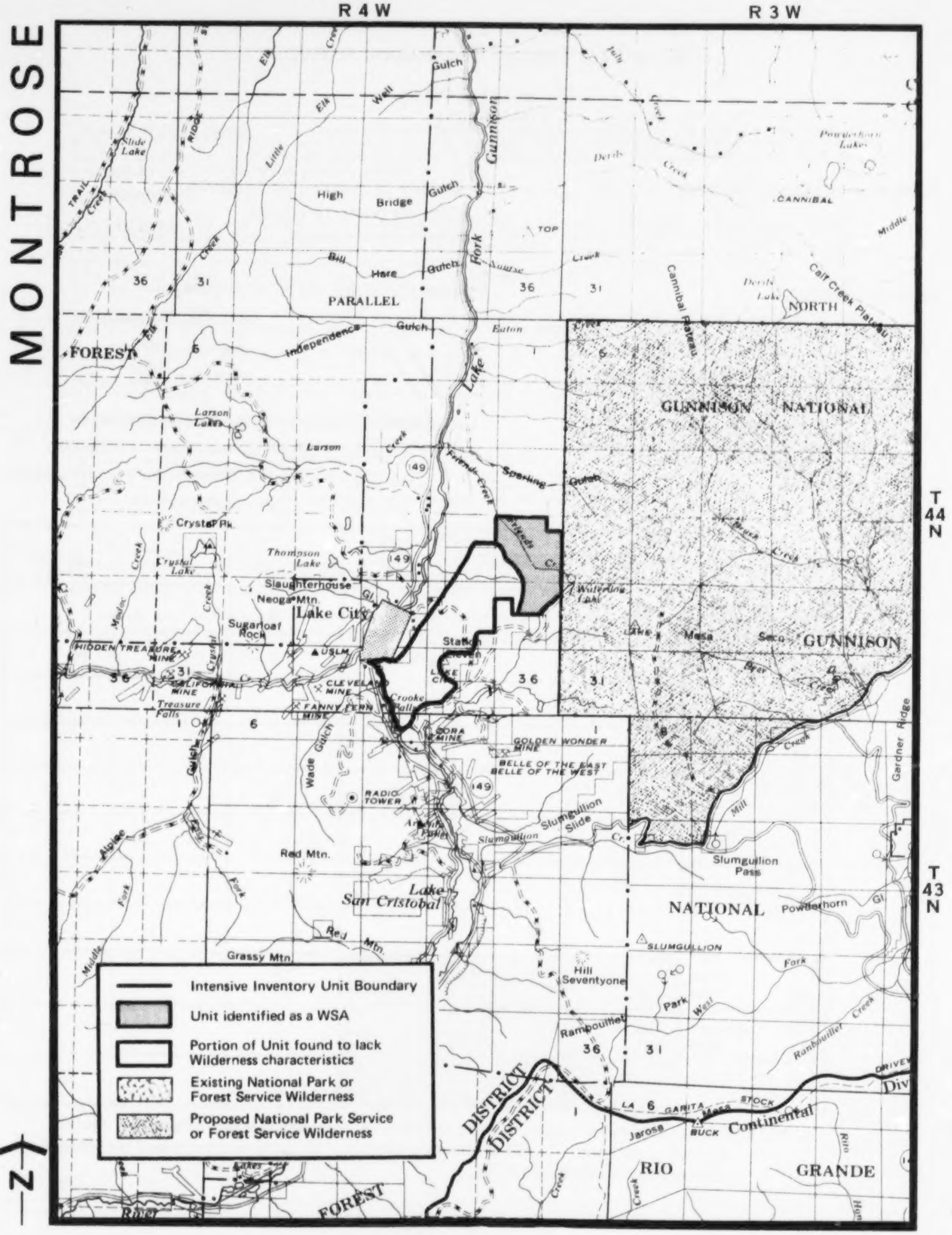
GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:
20 Colorado
______ Utah
1 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:
15 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
4 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
2 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	4			3		1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		3		3		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.	1		2	3		
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	10	1		11		
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	14		1
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	4		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	2		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-030-213 Friends Creek


R 4 W
R 3 W
T 44 N
T 43 N
MONTROSE
N
GUNNISON NATIONAL
GUNNISON
NATIONAL
FOREST
RIO GRANDE
FOREST
DISTRICT
Lake City
Lake San Cristobal
Slumgullion Pass
Slumgullion Slide
Continental Div
Friends Creek
Lake Fork Gunnison
Sparling Gulch
Independence Gulch
Crystal Pk.
Sugarloaf Rock
Neoga Mtn.
Red Mtn.
Grassy Mtn.
Hill Seventyone
Rambouillet
Powderhorn Lakes
Cannibal Plateau
Calf Creek Plateau
Thompson Lake
Larson Lakes
Treasure Falls
Hidden Treasure Mine
Golden Wonder Mine
Belle of the East
Belle of the West
Radio Tower
Wade Gulch
149
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

CO-030-213
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

FRIENDS CREEK

CO-030-213

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 2,240 acres intensively inventoried
720 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
720 acres identified as a WSA (adjacent to U.S. Forest Service RARE II Area #218 - 31,990 acres)

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____Yes _X_No

GENERAL LOCATION: Adjacent to Gunnison National Forest east of Lake City (Hinsdale County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Intensive Inventory 8/78: An accelerated intensive inventory for this unit was completed prior to the initiation of the Bureau-wide inventory because the unit was contained within a Special Project Area. Therefore, no initial inventory was conducted. This unit contained 2,240 acres.

Proposed WSA Decision:
8/31/79: Following the public comment period (5/79 to 7/79), 2,240 acres were proposed as a WSA.

2/1/80: Additional intensive inventory field study conducted during the summer of 1979 indicated the need for boundary adjustments. Approximately 1,320 acres were deleted because these lands lacked outstanding opportunities for solitude. After this boundary modification, 720 acres were proposed as a WSA.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: All of the lands within the unit are public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The area is surrounded by private land, BLM public lands and National Forest lands. A RARE II area proposed for future wilderness study lies adjacent to the eastern boundary (#218; 31,990 acres).

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The unit consists of steep drainages and westerly-trending sideslopes off the Cannibal Plateau. It contains forested areas of aspen, spruce and fir, with open meadows interspersed throughout.

Imprints of Man: The unit is primarily natural in character without noticeable imprints of man.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Four comments were received stating the area is primarily natural in character. All statements were general and gave no new specific information. No comments were received stating the area is unnatural in character.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: The heavily forested areas and the secluded meadows offer outstanding opportunities for solitude due to vegetative screening. In addition, this unit is a natural landscape continuation of the contiguous RARE II Area #218 which contains rugged mountain topography and dense forested cover. This combined area would greatly enhance opportunities for solitude.

Evaluation of Public Comments: A total of six comments were received addressing outstanding opportunities for solitude. Of these, five comments stated the unit contains outstanding solitude opportunities and included reasons such as the unit includes forests and meadows and rugged terrain which enhances these opportunities. One comment stated the area does not contain outstanding opportunities for solitude but no specific reasons were given which offer new information that would change the BLM's determination.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: The limited acreage of this unit would restrict primitive recreation opportunities. However, this unit is contiguous with, and a natural extension of, RARE II Area #218 which contains a large acreage of rugged mountain terrain with numerous lakes and streams. This combined acreage would provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation activities such as hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing and sightseeing.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Five comments were received stating the area contains outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation, substantiating BLM's determination. No comments were received stating the unit does not contain outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: No supplemental values were found within the unit.

Evaluation of Public Comments: No comments specifically addressed supplemental values within the Friends Creek unit.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

There are no known imprints of man within the unit. One comment was received and that comment stated the area did not have reclamation possibilities because if an area needed reclamation, it wasn't wilderness. There are no imprints within the unit requiring rehabilitation.

RATIONALE FOR INDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The Friends Creek unit, though small in size, is adjacent to U.S. Forest Service RARE II Area #218, thus meeting size criteria for wilderness study. It is primarily natural in character with man's imprints substantially unnoticeable. Vegetative screening in the forested sections of the unit provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. In combination with adjacent Forest Service lands, outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation exist. The unit meets all the criteria for a Wilderness Study Area.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

One comment stated the area contains potential mineral values. One comment stated that designation would prevent access to 80 acres of private land. Once an area is designated Wilderness by Congress, the Wilderness Act of 1964 provides that the non-federal landowner shall be given rights necessary to insure access, if the private land is completely surrounded by federal lands.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Friends Creek
CO 030 213

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 12

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 17
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:
8 Personal Letters
___ Postcards
3 Public Comments Forms
1 Meetings
___ Phone Calls
___ Other

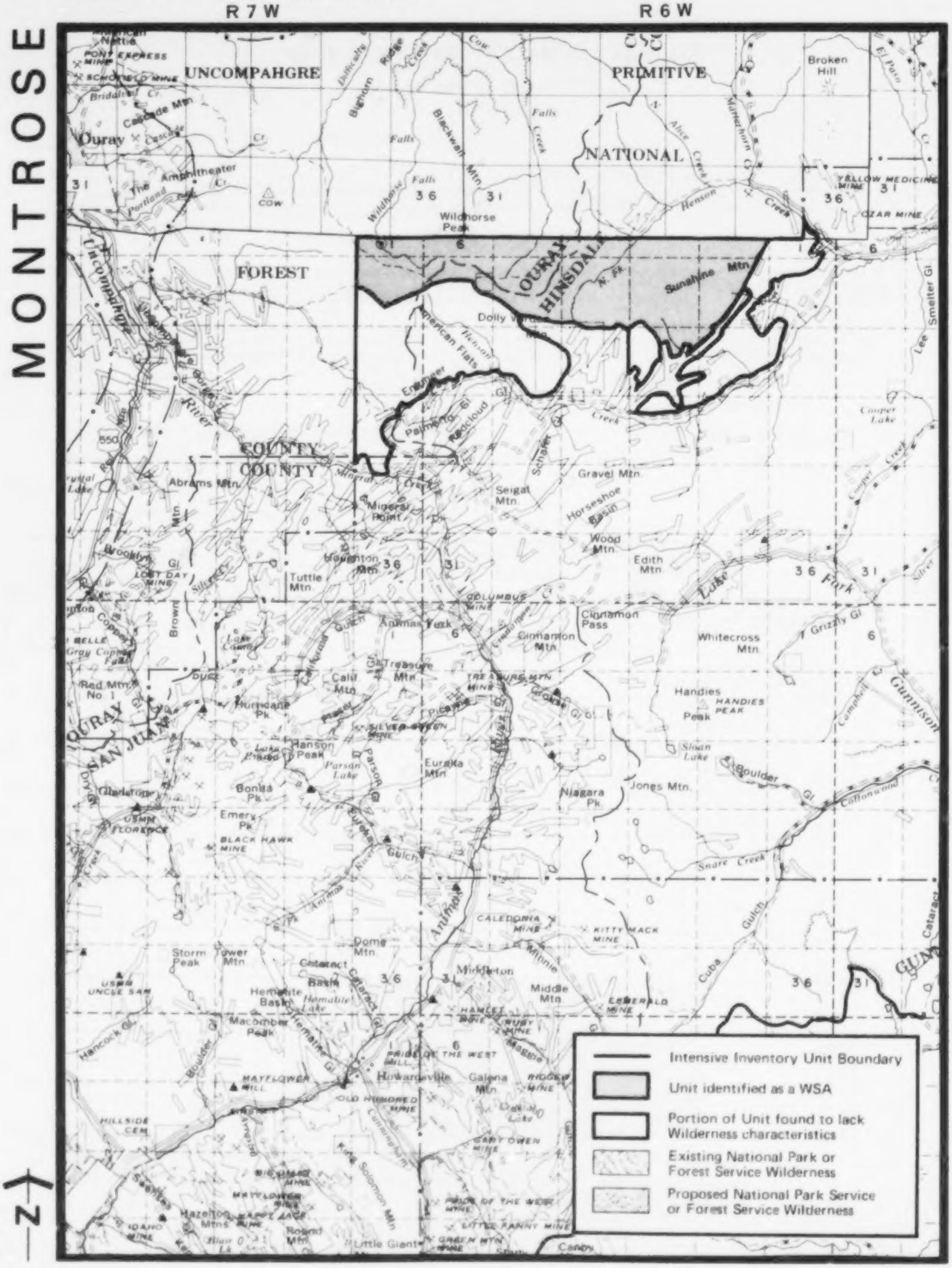
GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:
11 Colorado
___ Utah
1 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:
9 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
2 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	1			1		
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS						
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.			1	1		
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	7	2		8		1
	OTHER	1			1		
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	8		1
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	2		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	1		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-030-217 American Flats


R 7 W
R 6 W
T 43 N
T 42 N
MONTROSE
UNCOMPAHGRE
PRIMITIVE
NATIONAL
FOREST
OURAY
HINSDALE
SAN JUAN
COUNTY
COUNTY
Ouray
Wildhorse Peak
Sunshine Mtn
Dolly Varden
American Flats
Engineer
Palmetto Gl
Redcloud
Broken Hill
Abrams Mtn
Mineral Point
Houghton Mtn
Tuttle Mtn
Brown
Animas Fork
Cinnamon Pass
Cinnamon Mtn
Whitecross Mtn
Handies Peak
Treasure Mtn
Calif Mtn
Hurricane Pk
Hanson Peak
Bonita Pk
Emery Pk
Eureka Mtn
Niagara Pk
Jones Mtn
Seigal Mtn
Gravel Mtn
Horseshoe Basin
Wood Mtn
Edith Mtn
Red Mtn No. 1
Gladstone
Storm Peak
Tower Mtn
Dome Mtn
Cataract Basin
Hematite Basin
Macomber Peak
Middleton
Middle Mtn
Howardsville
Galena Mtn
Hazelton Mtns
Round Mtn
Little Giant
Animas River
Lake Fork
Gunnison
Uncompahgre River
Cooper Lake
Sloan Lake
Boulder Gl
Snare Creek
Cuba Gulch
550
N
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness

CO-030-217
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

AMERICAN FLATS

CO-030-217

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 7,900 acres intensively inventoried
6,700 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
3,400 acres identified as a WSA (adjacent to U.S. Forest Service Uncompahgre Primitive Area)

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: X Yes ____ No

Additions 120 acres Deletions 3,420 acres
(as result of public comments)

GENERAL LOCATION: Approximately 4 miles southeast of Ouray (Ouray County - San Juan County - Hinsdale County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Intensive Inventory 7/78: An accelerated intensive inventory for this unit was completed prior to the initiation of the Bureau-wide inventory because the unit was contained within a Special Project Area. Therefore, no initial inventory was conducted. This unit contained 7,900 acres.

Proposed WSA Decision:
8/31/79: Following the public comment period (5/79 to 7/79), 7,900 acres were proposed as a WSA.

2/1/80: Further field checks conducted during the summer of 1979 resulted in 640 acres being deleted from the southwestern portion of the unit because of its narrow configuration as well as the presence of numerous patented mining claims. Another 560 acres were deleted from the southcentral portion of the unit due to the occurrence of mining-associated activities which have reduced the natural condition of the landscape. As a result of these deletions, 6,700 acres were proposed as a WSA.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: The unit consists entirely of 3,400 acres of public lands administered by the BLM. The unit is also contiguous with the U.S. Forest Service Uncompahgre Primitive Area. There are unpatented mining claims within the unit. The entire area is leased for grazing. The unit is surrounded by a mixture of BLM public lands, private lands and U.S. Forest Service lands.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The majority of the American Flats unit is alpine tundra. About ten drainages radiate from Dolly Varden (12,932 feet) and Sunshine (13,321 feet) Mountains. Portions of these are below timberline and are forested with spruce.

Imprints of Man: Imprints of man within the unit include vehicle ways and the use of the area for sheep grazing. About 1½ miles of ways are two-track jeep trails having a low impact on the naturalness of the area. In the context of the large open tundra region encompassed by the unit and surrounding public and Forest lands, these imprints are substantially unnoticeable. The mountainous landscape with numerous drainages also tends to screen the ways from view. Unit CO-030-217 is primarily natural in character.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Seven comments were received which agreed with BLM's determination that the unit is primarily natural in character. Three comments stated the unit is not natural in appearance. One statement commented generally that the area does not appear to be affected primarily by the forces of nature. One comment stated the area has high mining activity and is used extensively by jeep tour companies. Some present mineral exploration is being allowed to be conducted within the unit using non-impairing methods such as helicopter and foot travel. Roads or jeep trails used by jeep tours have been excluded from the unit. One statement commented that old mining activity and sheep grazing have adversely affected the naturalness of the area. The old mining activity within the unit is substantially unnoticeable and is a minor imprint of man. Sheep grazing is allowed within a designated wilderness and Congress has determined that grazing is a compatible use. One comment was received which stated the unit is roadless. Four comments were received which stated the unit contains roads. One comment stated the "roads" have been maintained by shovel and rock removal in the spring. Three vehicle "ways" are located within the unit and are not maintained to insure relatively regular and continuous use. BLM signs have been posted and reposted stating closure of these vehicle routes prior to this area being inventoried for wilderness characteristics. Other comments addressing roads did not give specific locations. A substantially noticeable bulldozed "way" was excluded east of Engineer Pass and a well-used vehicle way was excluded west of Engineer Mountain as the naturalness had been adversely affected. Several vehicle ways, originally bulldozed but no longer maintained, have been excluded from the southwestern portion of the unit due to the cumulative impact. In addition to the substantially noticeable ways which are highly visible scars on the tundra, several mining prospects and bulldozed exploration pits and scrapings are evident within this portion. Thus, the area south and southwest of American Lake does not appear to have retained its primeval character and influence.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Because of the unit's relatively small size and rolling, open alpine tundra which does not provide for either vegetative or topographic screening, the unit does not (by itself) contain outstanding opportunities for solitude. Only in conjunction with the adjacent U.S. Forest Service Uncompahgre Primitive Area, which includes rugged and diverse topography and vegetation, would this unit contain outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eleven comments agreed with the BLM's determination that this unit contains outstanding opportunities for solitude. Two comments state this unit does not contain outstanding opportunities for solitude. One specific reason was given that the area is of narrow configuration and the Forest Service did not recommend the area for wilderness designation. The Forest Service area is currently a primitive area and has been proposed in Congressional legislation for wilderness designation. A boundary adjustment was made to exclude a portion from the eastern side because solitude and primitive recreation values could not be determined to be outstanding due to its narrow configuration and numerous patented mining claims.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: The alpine tundra vegetation of the area allows unconfined movement for hiking activities, but only in combination with the high scenic quality of the mountainous landscape, provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation activities such as hiking, horseback riding, backpacking, mountain climbing, cross-country skiing, photography and sightseeing found on the Forest Service Uncompahgre Primitive Area lands.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Ten comments agreed with BLM's determination that the unit contains outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. One comment stated the area's narrow configuration combined with the fact that the Forest Service did not recommend the Uncompahgre Primitive Area for wilderness designation does not provide for outstanding primitive recreation. The Forest Service area is still a primitive area and is in Congressional legislation for designation as wilderness. A boundary adjustment was made to exclude a portion from the eastern side because solitude and primitive recreation values could not be determined to be outstanding due to its narrow configuration and numerous patented mining claims.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: The scenic quality of the area is outstanding due to the alpine tundra with its colorful summer flower display and the numerous 13,000-foot plus mountain peaks both within and surrounding the area. Within this area are the plant species Altia Starwort *(Stellaria irrigua)* and Porter's Groundsel *(Senecio porteri)* which are considered as rare.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eight comments were received stating the area contains supplemental values. Examples cited are endangered plant species, scenic areas, historic values, ecologically unique areas and summer range for deer and elk. One comment stated that the area is of large enough size to be managed well. There were no comments received stating the unit does not contain supplemental values.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

There are no major imprints of man within the unit that would require active rehabilitation. Concerning the ways which exist in the unit, three comments stated they could be reclaimed to a natural condition. One comment received stated the ways could not be rehabilitated as it would cost a great deal of money and time. Areas excluded due to lack of naturalness could not be rehabilitated by hand labor or natural processes in a timely manner.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

American Flats unit is of sufficient size to make practicable its use and preservation in an unimpaired condition only in conjunction with the adjacent U.S. Forest Service Uncompahgre Primitive Area. The unit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. The mountain landscape with large open areas of alpine tundra and numerous drainages that descend from Dolly Varden and Sunshine Mountains provide both outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined recreation. The area has several "supplemental values", including the outstanding scenic value of the surrounding mountains and the presence of "ecologically unique" plant species. This unit meets the criteria required of a Wilderness Study Area.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

Seven comments cited conflicts concerning the mineral resources, with specific reference to metallic and uranium minerals as well as oil and gas. Two comments cited grazing as a conflict but did not provide specific information. One comment stated that grazing is compatible with wilderness and one commentor noted that the sheep population should be reduced. Two comments noted this area's ecological values needed protection. One commentor wished to see jeeps prohibited from this area. One comment suggested multiple use management so that exploration targets could be thoroughly investigated. One comment provided geochemical sample and analysis results from locations within the unit. One comment noted that the State has the minerals and/or surface rights and suggested land exchanges to avoid conflict.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

American Flats
CO 030 217

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 32

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 40
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

24 Personal Letters
Postcards
6 Public Comments Forms
2 Meetings
Phone Calls
Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

28 Colorado
Utah
4 Other

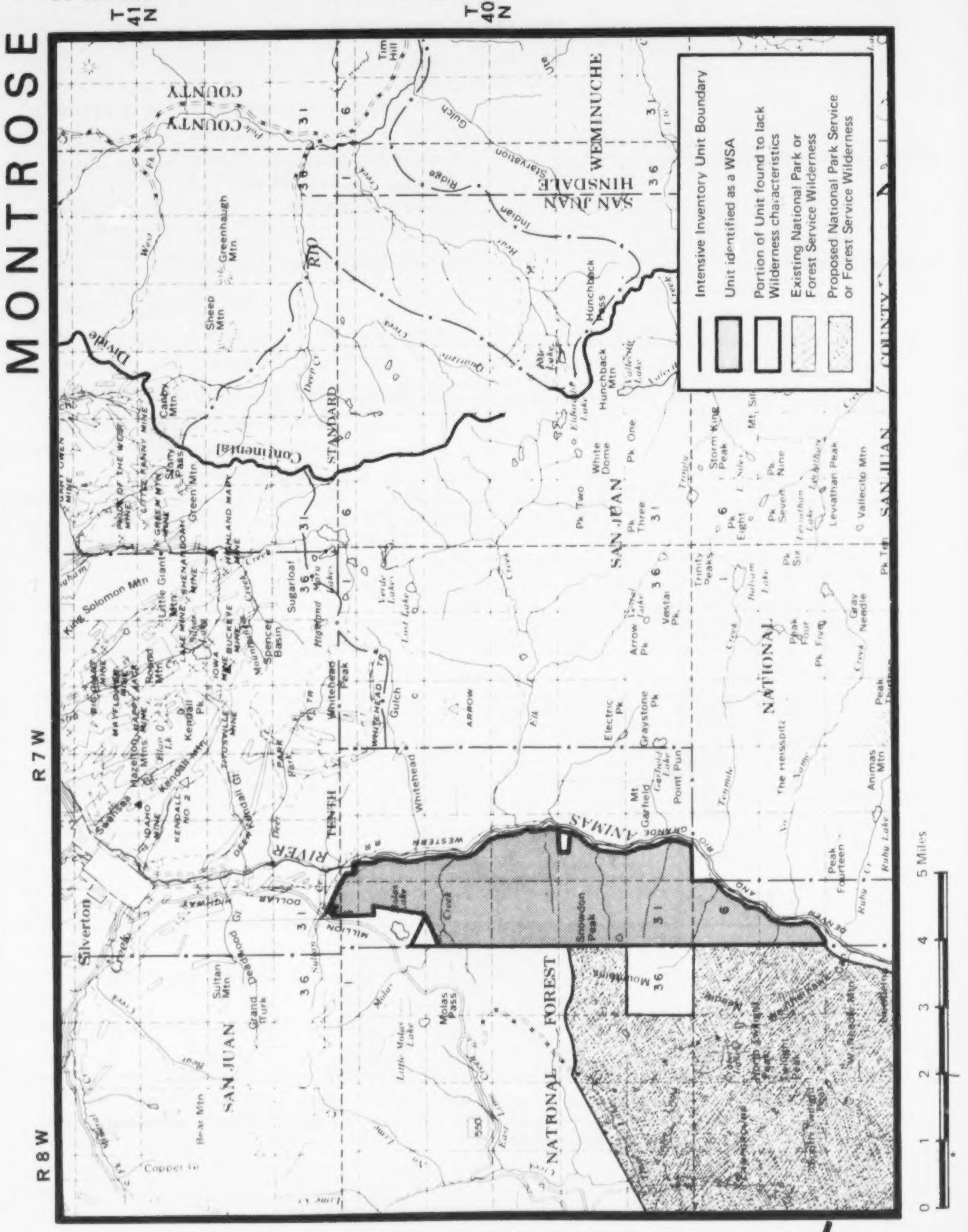
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

22 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
8 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
2 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	3			2		1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		4		2		2
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.		2	1	3		
	STATE GOVT.			1	1		
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	19	2		20		1
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	20		2
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	6		2
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	2		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-030-229A West Needles Contiguous


T 41 N
T 40 N
R7W
R8W
MONTROSE
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles
N
Silverton
Snowdon Peak
Molas Pass
Little Molas Lake
Sultan Mtn
Grand Turk
Bear Mtn
SAN JUAN NATIONAL FOREST
ANIMAS
RIVER
Whitehead Peak
Sugarloaf
Spencer Basin
King Solomon Mtn
Kendall Mtn
Continental Divide
STANDARD
Cataract Mtn
Sheep Mtn
Greenhaugh Mtn
Hunchback Pass
Hunchback Mtn
WEMINUCHE
SAN JUAN HINSDALE
COUNTY
Starvation Gulch
Indian Ridge
White Dome
Pk One
Pk Two
Pk Three
Storm King Peak
Trinity Peaks
Arrow Pk
Vestal Pk
Electric Pk
Graystone Pk
Mt Garfield
Point Pun
The Heisspitz
Animas Mtn
Peak Fourteen
Gray Needle
Vallecito Mtn
Leviathan Peak
Needle Mountains
Twilight Peak
Weminuche
Denver and Rio Grande Western

CO-030-229A
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

WEST NEEDLES CONTIGUOUS

CO-030-229A

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 5,920 acres intensively inventoried
5,820 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
5,780 acres identified as a WSA (adjacent to U.S. Forest Service RARE II Area #303 - 15,650 acres)

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: X Yes ____ No

Additions 0 acres Deletions 40 acres
(as result of public comment)

GENERAL LOCATION: About four miles south of Silverton (San Juan County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: The initial inventory situation evaluation recommended 5,920 acres for intensive inventory. This acreage consisted of 1,220 acres which underwent accelerated intensive inventory prior to the initiation of the Bureau-wide inventory because the unit is contained within a Special Project Area.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: Following the public comment period (5/79 to 7/79), 5,920 acres were identified for intensive inventory.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: Intensive inventory field studies conducted during the summer of 1979 resulted in several boundary adjustments. Approximately 40 acres were omitted due to the presence of a Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad right-of-way. Another 40 acres were deleted to exclude major imprints of man resulting from mineral exploration. Approximately 20 acres were deleted to exclude a road. Following these boundary adjustments, 5,820 acres were proposed as a WSA.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: All land within the unit is public land administered by the BLM. The unit is contiguous to the 15,650-acre West Needles RARE II Area #A303 which is recommended by the Forest Service for wilderness designation. Land outside the unit boundaries is a mixture of private, public and National Forest lands. Portions of the unit are leased for grazing and it contains several unpatented mining claims.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The unit lies mostly within the steep, forested Animas River Canyon and encompasses portions of the Animas River. An eastern extension of the West Needles Mountains is within the unit, including the flank of Snowdon Peak. Meadows of gently-rolling to nearly flat topography are found in the northern portion of the unit below Molas Lake and above the Animas Gorge. Vegetation includes alpine tundra, spruce and aspen forests, and riparian communities.

Imprints of Man: Unit CO-030-229A is primarily natural in character. There are some mining prospects within the unit but these are substantially unnoticeable.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Twelve comments addressed the naturalness of the unit. Seven of these felt that the unit was not primarily natural in character. They cited the narrow-gage railroad on the boundary of the unit, an active uranium mine near Elk Park, roads near the unit, mining claims, exploration activities, a powerline on the boundary of the unit and ways. The town of Silverton, additionally, mentioned the periodic need to dredge the creeks which fill Molas Lake. Five comments supported BLM's recommendation while providing no new data.

Outside sights and sounds such as the railroad, powerline or roads which do not enter the unit cannot be considered during the inventory phase of the wilderness review, but will be analyzed during the study phase. The active uranium mine has been previously excluded from the unit. Mining claims themselves do not affect the naturalness of the unit. They will be taken into consideration during the study phase. Certain mineral exploration activities are allowed to continue in wilderness inventory and study areas, while others may be "grandfathered" by virtue of prior impact or valid existing rights. No specific evidence was given of exploration activities which would have substantially impaired the unit's naturalness. The only way within the unit (near Molas Lake) was not determined to substantially impair the naturalness of the area. The town of Silverton's concern for the need for access to accomplish the dredging of creeks feeding into Molas Lake will be taken into consideration during the study phase. No roads were found within the unit, but a vehicle way which is substantially noticeable is located south of Molas Lake.. Approximately 40 acres were deleted because of this vehicle way and area heavily used by campers with motorized vehicles.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: That portion of Animas Gorge within the unit is densely forested with steep, narrow side drainages. Above the Animas Gorge, there is the rugged mountain terrain around Snowdon Peak. In addition, this unit is adjacent to the Forest Service RARE II Area #A303 which contains 15,650 acres of mountains, valleys and forest. The combination of topographic and vegetative screening within a large area of contiguous wildlands provides for outstanding opportunities for solitude in Unit CO-030-229A.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eleven comments supported BLM's evaluation that this unit does provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Nine of them offered no specific data but only made general statements. Two comments attributed the outstanding opportunities for solitude to the outstanding river campsites, rugged terrain, large mountainous expanses and forested areas. One comment stated the area did not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude but gave no specific reasons for this judgment.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are present in the West Needles Contiguous unit due to a combination of several factors. The large acreage of federal lands being managed for wilderness values, the rugged mountain landscape, the spruce and aspen forest, the narrow side canyons with cascading creeks, and the Animas River provide for diverse and outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation such as hiking, backpacking, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, mountain climbing and cross-country skiing.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eight comments were received which supported BLM's finding that the area does provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Most statements provided no specific information on factors providing for recreation opportunities, while several mentioned the outstanding scenery. Activities mentioned were hiking, backpacking, fishing, photography and geologic study. No comments indicated the unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: The high scenic quality of the rugged, unspoiled mountain terrain within and adjacent to the unit is considered a supplemental value.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Ten comments noted the presence of supplemental values within this unit. The outstanding scenic quality of the area and the scenic vistas were mentioned in most of these as a supplemental value. In addition, the geology of the area and abundant wildlife were mentioned as supplemental values. Two comments called the narrow-gage railroad a historical supplemental value. One comment noted that the view from the narrow-gage train is a supplemental value and felt that this view should be protected. However, this is outside the unit and, therefore, not considered in the evaluation of the unit's wilderness suitability study.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

There are no imprints of man within the unit that require rehabilitation. Two comments were received which stated that any imprints in the area could be reclaimed naturally. However, no specific imprints were noted or locations given. One comment stated that it would take a great deal of time and money to reclaim the existing roads and old mining buildings. BLM found no roads or buildings within the unit which would impair naturalness or require rehabilitation.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

West Needles Contiguous inventory unit consists of 5,780 acres of public lands which are adjacent to the San Juan National Forest RARE II West Needles Area (15,650 acres) that is recommended for wilderness and that is being managed for wilderness values. The combined public lands and forest lands form a large area (21,430 acres) of undeveloped federal land that is natural in character. Although several comments stated the unit was not natural in character, they did not provide information regarding specific imprints of man within the unit that would result in boundary alterations or change BLM's decision. The impacts noted were outside the unit boundaries or were only potential impacts. The size (5,780 acres) and location (within the Animas River Canyon) of the unit are sufficient to make practicable its preservation and use in an impaired condition. The unit offers outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. There are outstanding scenic values of mountain landscapes within and adjoining the inventory unit that are considered a supplemental value. This unit meets all the criteria of a Wilderness Study Area.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

Three comments stated the area had potential mineral values. Two of these comments noted there is an operating uranium/silver mine near the boundary of the unit. One comment indicated possible range conflicts and one stated there could be access/right-of-way problems. The Colorado State Highway Department is concerned with the possible need for obtaining a ½-mile wide buffer zone on Highway 550 to allow for roadway use and necessary expansion.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

West Needles Contiguous
CO 030 229A

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 31

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 38
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:
26 Personal Letters
___ Postcards
4 Public Comments Forms
1 Meetings
___ Phone Calls
___ Other

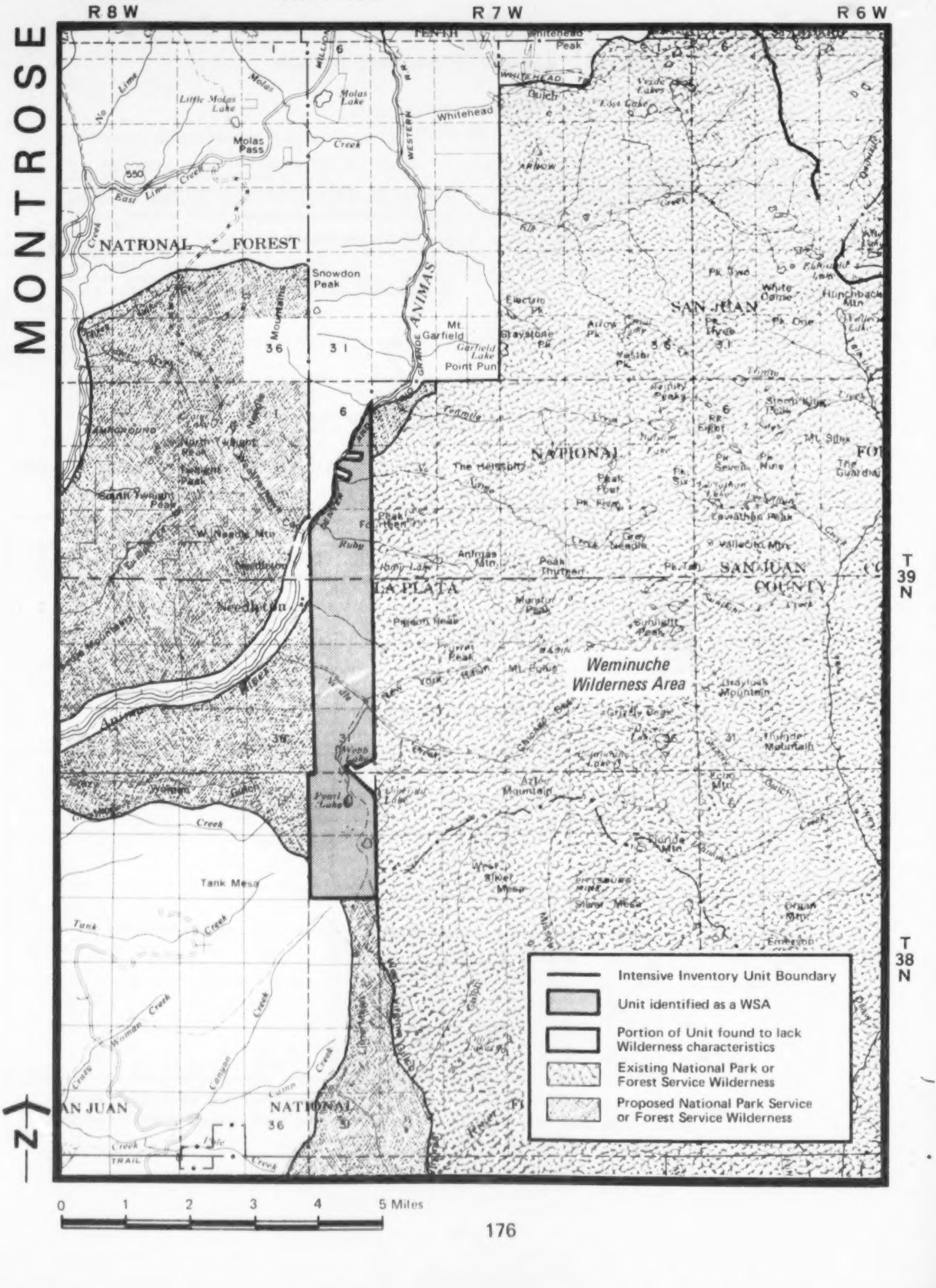
GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:
28 Colorado
0 Utah
3 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:
22 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
6 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
3 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOM-MENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRON-MENTAL GP.	6			4		2
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		3		3		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.		1	1	2		
	STATE GOVT.			2	2		
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	16	2		17		1
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	19		3
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	6		
	NO RECOM-MENDATION	▨	▨	▨	3		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-030-229B Needle Creek


R 8 W
R 7 W
R 6 W
MONTROSE
T 39 N
T 38 N
N
Molas Pass
Little Molas Lake
Molas Lake
Whitehead Peak
Whitehead Gulch
NATIONAL FOREST
Snowdon Peak
Needle Mountains
Mt. Garfield
ANIMAS
North Twilight Peak
Twilight Peak
South Twilight Peak
W. Needle Mtn
Needleton
SAN JUAN
NATIONAL
SAN JUAN COUNTY
LA PLATA
Weminuche Wilderness Area
Animas Mtn.
Peak Thirteen
Pigeon Peak
Turret Peak
Mt. Eolus
Aztec Mountain
Emerald Lake
Pearl Lake
Tank Mesa
Silver Mesa
Organ Mtn
Emerson
Thunder Mountain
Echo Mtn
Florida Mtn
Crazy Woman Gulch
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

CO-030-229B
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

NEEDLE CREEK

CO-030-229B

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 4,200 acres intensively inventoried
4,200 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
4,200 acres identified as a WSA (adjacent to U.S. Forest Service Weminuche Wilderness - 401,410 acres)
(adjacent to RARE II Areas #294 - 15,200 acres; #296 - 380 acres;
#302 - 4,380 acres)

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____ Yes _X_ No

GENERAL LOCATION: Approximately nine miles south of Silverton (La Plata/San Juan Counties)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: In the initial inventory situation evaluation, 4,200 acres were recommended for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: Following the public comment period (5/79 to 7/79), 4,200 acres were identified for intensive inventory.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: Additional intensive field study conducted during the summer of 1979 indicated that no boundary adjustments were necessary. Therefore, 4,200 acres were proposed as a WSA.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: All lands within the unit are public lands administered by the BLM. It is contiguous with the 401,410-acre National Forest Weminuche Wilderness Area and three RARE II areas that have been recommended for wilderness designation by the National Forest Service (19,960 acres total). There are no leases, easements or patented mining claims within the unit. It does contain several unpatented mining claims. It is surrounded by a mixture of public lands, National Forest lands and private land.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The Needle Creek unit consists of rugged, high mountain terrain including a portion of the Animas River Gorge and Mountain View Crest. Past glaciation has created a series of cirques on the north side of Mountain View Crest, many containing alpine lakes. Numerous small streams cascade from the cirque basins. Vegetation is alpine tundra in the vicinity of Mountain View Crest and subalpine forest on the slopes of the Animas River Gorge and Needle Creek Canyon.

Imprints of Man: The only imprint of man within the unit is a short stretch of way (approximately ½ mile) in the southeastern corner of the unit. This way consists of twin vehicle tracks which are no longer accessible to motor vehicles. The way is substantially unnoticeable and does not impair the naturalness of the unit.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eight comments addressed the naturalness of the unit. Four comments supported BLM's recommendation on the unit but provided no new specific information. Four comments stated the unit was not natural in character but provided no specific information. Three of those four comments mentioned the presence of a road or roads without giving specific locations. One comment mentioned the presence of the narrow-gage railroad along a portion of the western boundary of the unit as an impairment to naturalness.

Field checks revealed the only vehicle route in the unit was the way in the southeastern corner of the unit. This way is no longer maintained or used for motorized vehicles. Access to the route has been closed by the U.S. Forest Service. Outside sights and sounds such as the railroad are not considered during the inventory phase of the wilderness review. No information was provided which would change BLM's WSA proposal for Unit CO-030-229B.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: This unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude due to the rugged topography of the Animas Gorge and Mountain View Crest and the vegetative screening provided by the subalpine forest. The large amount of contiguous National Forest Wilderness and recommended wilderness greatly enhance opportunities for solitude within this area.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Seven comments were received which supported BLM's judgment that this unit does provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Rugged terrain and forest vegetation were cited as factors providing for solitude.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: This unit provides outstanding opportunities for a number of primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The rugged mountain terrain provides challenging hiking and cross-country skiing opportunities. Trout fishing is available in the alpine lakes and streams. The highly scenic mountain landscape enhances these recreation opportunities and others such as hunting, horseback riding and photography. The large amount of contiguous National Forest wilderness and recommended wilderness extends the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation within this area.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eight comments were received which supported BLM's finding that this unit does provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Most were just general statements of concurrence but several specifically mentioned the outstanding high mountain scenery, alpine lakes and streams, hiking and climbing opportunities and excellent trout fishing.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: There are outstanding panoramic vistas from the top of Mountain View Crest, encompassing portions of the Animas River Gorge and the surrounding mountain landscape, including the spectacular Needle Mountains. The area is geologically interesting because of the exposed interface between granitic and sedimentary strata and the visible effects of past glaciation.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eight comments addressed the presence of supplemental values within the unit. Outstanding scenic values were mentioned by most. Remoteness, high-quality lakes and streams and interesting geology were also mentioned as supplemental values.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

One comment stated, without reference to specific imprints, that any human disturbances in the area could be reclaimed by natural processes. BLM found no imprints of man within the area that significantly detracted from the naturalness of the area. One comment noted that overgrazing by sheep exists, but can be easily remedied.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

In combination with contiguous National Forest lands which have been designated as wilderness or recommended for wilderness designation, Unit CO-030-229B is of sufficient size to be preserved and used in an unimpaired condition. It is natural in character with no significant imprints of man. Comments stating the unit was not natural provided no specific information which would change BLM's recommendation. Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation are available in the unit due to the scenic, rugged mountain terrain and contiguous wilderness lands. The unit also contains scenic and geologic supplemental values. It meets all the criteria required of a Wilderness Study Area.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

Two comments mentioned potential mineral resources and unpatented mining claims within the unit. One of these cited the value of assays and samples taken from the area. One comment mentioned possible range conflicts but no specific information was given. One commentor suggested that a joint BLM/USFS wilderness study should be initiated during the WSA period. One comment proposed that a WSA designation would protect this area from vandalism. One comment noted the State had mineral rights and suggested that a land exchange could solve any problems that may occur.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Weminuche Contiguous
CO 030 229B

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 31

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 39
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:
26 Personal Letters
____ Postcards
4 Public Comments Forms
1 Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

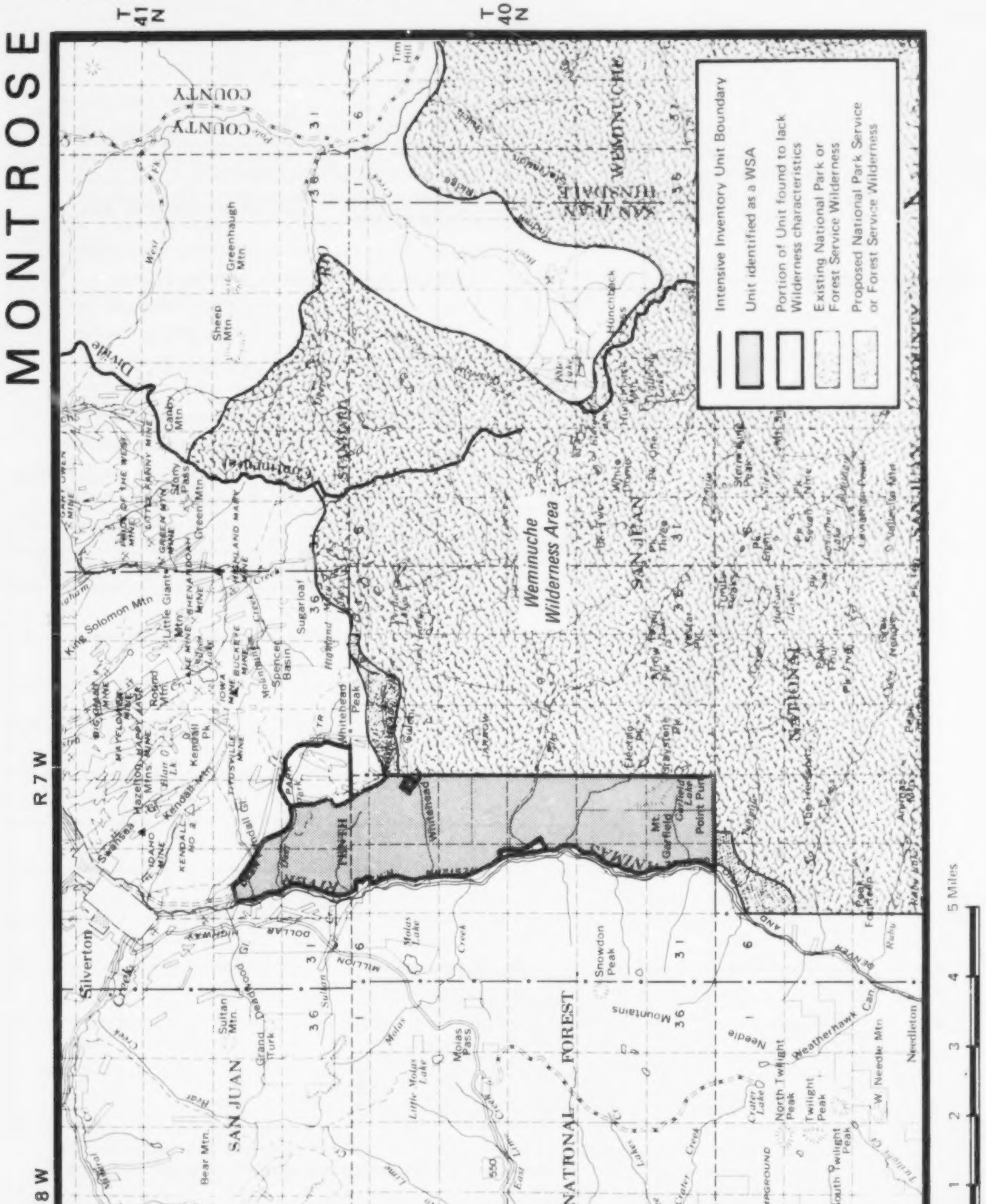
GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:
28 Colorado
____ Utah
3 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:
22 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
6 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
3 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	6			4		2
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		3		3		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.		1	1	2		
	STATE GOVT.	1		2	3		
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	15	2		16		1
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	19		3
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	6		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	3		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-030-230B Whitehead Gulch


MONTROSE
T 41 N
T 40 N
R 7 W
R 8 W
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
Weminuche Wilderness Area
SAN JUAN NATIONAL FOREST
Silverton
Whitehead Peak
Mt. Garfield
Molas Lake
Molas Pass
Snowdon Peak
Kendall Pk
Sultan Mtn
Bear Mtn
Grand Turk
Canby Mtn
Sheep Mtn
Greenhaugh Mtn
Sugarloaf
Spencer Basin
King Solomon Mtn
North Twilight Peak
Twilight Peak
South Twilight Peak
Needleton
W Needle Mtn
Weatherhawk Can
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles
N

CO-030-230B
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

WHITEHEAD GULCH

CO-030-230B

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 6,800 acres intensively inventoried
5,640 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
5,640 acres identified as a WSA (adjacent to U.S. Forest Service Weminuche Wilderness - 401,410 acres)
(adjacent to RARE II Areas #296 - 380 acres and #297 - 460 acres)

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____ Yes X No

GENERAL LOCATION: Adjacent to San Juan National Forest, about five miles south of Silverton (San Juan County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision:
8/78: Unit CO-030-230B is the result of combining Units CO-030-230 and CO-030-230A later during the inventory process. At this time (8/78), Unit CO-030-230 was contained within a Special Project Area. Therefore, an accelerated intensive inventory was completed prior to the initiation of the Bureau-wide inventory. Unit CO-030-230 contained 4,560 acres.

3/14/79: The initial inventory situation evaluation for Unit CO-030-230 recommended 3,400 acres for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: Following the public comment period (5/79 to 7/79), 4,560 acres of Unit CO-030-230 were proposed as a WSA. At this time, 3,400 acres of Unit CO-030-230A were identified as an intensive inventory unit.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: Several boundary adjustments were made in Unit CO-030-230 following intensive field inventory conducted in the summer of 1979 prior to its combination with Unit CO-030-230A. Approximately 480 acres were deleted from the central part of Unit CO-030-230 because its naturalness was impacted by mining activity. Another 400 acres were omitted from the central portion of the unit to exclude National Forest lands that were previously included in the unit. Approximately 280 acres were excluded from the northern portion of the unit which, due to its narrow configuration, did not provide for outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation. These boundary adjustments resulted in Unit CO-030-230 being split into two parts: the western portion was combined with Unit CO-030-230A to form Unit CO-030-230B. Following these boundary adjustments, 5,640 acres within Unit CO-030-230B were proposed as a WSA.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: All land within the unit is public land administered by the BLM. Portions of the area are leased for grazing and it contains some unpatented mining claims. The unit is surrounded by a mixture of public land administered by the BLM, National Forest land and private land. It is contiguous with the 401,410-acre Weminuche Wilderness and RARE II Areas #A297 (460 acres) and #A296 (380 acres) which have been recommended by the U.S. Forest Service for wilderness designation.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The unit lies mostly within the steeply forested Animas River Canyon and encompasses portions of the Animas River. A western extension of the Grenadier Range, including Mount Garfield, is within the unit. There are park-like areas along the Animas River, the most notable being Elk Park. Vegetation includes alpine tundra, spruce and aspen forests, and riparian communities of willow, raspberry and sedges.

Imprints of Man: Imprints of man within the unit consist of one way and some evidence of past mining activity. The way is a two-wheel track that does not appear to have been maintained. Exploration pits and adits are also found in the unit but they are scattered over a large area and are screened from most vantage points by topography and vegetation and are not substantially noticeable. Some of these old prospects may be of historical value.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Six comments were received which agreed with BLM's evaluation that this unit is primarily natural in character. However, they offered no new or specific information. Four comments stated that part of the area was not natural in character. Claim staking and drilling were cited in one letter as activities that had impacted the unit. BLM field evaluation found no evidence that these activities had occurred in such a manner as to substantially impair the unit's naturalness. Two letters described the narrow-gage railroad as bisecting the unit. They also suggested the presence of roads in the area and mentioned the active uranium mine near Elk Park. The railroad does not bisect Unit CO-030-230B but does form a portion of the unit boundary. The uranium mine has been excluded from the areas proposed as WSAs. The effects of outside sights and sounds such as the railroad and/or mine are not assessed during the inventory phase but will be considered during the study portion of the wilderness review process. One other comment indicated the presence of "heavily traveled jeep roads" and "ore-hauling roads" within the area. None of the references to roads in this unit gave specific information as to locations or condition. BLM field evaluation determined that the short vehicle route in the unit is an unmaintained way.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: The combination of topographic and vegetative screening in the rugged and densely forested Animas Gorge provide for outstanding opportunities for solitude within this area. In addition, this unit and adjacent areas that are either wilderness or proposed wilderness, provide numerous outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eight comments were received which supported BLM's finding that the unit does provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Most were general statements of concurrence without specific information, although several cited the ruggedness of the terrain as a factor contributing to solitude opportunities. One comment indicated that the unit did not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude but gave no specific data that would change BLM's determination.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Outstanding opportunities for primitve and unconfined recreation are present in the Whitehead Gulch unit due to a combination of several factors. The large acreage of contiguous federal lands being managed for wilderness values, the mountain landscape with high peaks and basins containing alpine streams and lakes, the spruce and aspen forests, the narrow side canyons with creeks that cascade down into the Animas River Gorge, the existing hiking and riding trail in Elk Creek, the open tundra ridges and basins that enable cross-country travel, and the Animas River which offers fishing and kayaking on its waters, provide for diverse and outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eight comments were received which supported BLM's recommendation that the unit does provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Recreation opportunities mentioned were kayaking, fishing, hiking, backpacking, and mountain climbing. Factors cited as contributing to the quality of recreation in the area were the outstanding scenic quality of the area, its geologic interest and ruggedness.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: The outstanding scenic quality of this rugged mountain area is considered a supplemental value.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eight comments were received which mentioned the outstanding scenery of the area as a supplemental value. Geological values were also mentioned. Two comments referred to the narrow-gage railroad as an historical supplemental value. The railroad is outside the unit--its effect on the wilderness character of the unit will be assessed during the wilderness study phase.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITON:

BLM found no imprints of man within the unit which would require rehabilitation. Three comments were received regarding reclamation potential. One comment stated that areas in the vicinity of this unit had been overgrazed by sheep but that any effects of overgrazing could be easily reclaimed. One comment stated that any imprints in the area could be reclaimed by natural processes but referenced no imprints which would require rehabiltation. The presence of roads and mining structures were cited in one comment as imprints of man which could not and should not be reclaimed. No specific information or locations were given for such imprints of man requiring rehabilitation. BLM has determined that no roads are present in the unit, nor does the past mining activity have a substantially noticeable impact on the unit's naturalness.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The Whitehead Gulch unit has all the wilderness characteristics required of a Wilderness Study Area. Several comments suggested that the unit did not meet the naturalness criteria. However, the imprints of man that were specifically identified are located outside the unit and, therefore, do not affect the WSA recommendation. Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation within the unit are considered to be outstanding due to the rugged, forested nature of the terrain and spectacular scenery of the area.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

Overgrazing of sheep was cited as a problem in one comment. One comment noted the mineral resource potential of the area.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Whitehead Gulch
CO 030 230B

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 25

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 31
(Often one comment is endorsed by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

22 Personal Letters
___ Postcards
2 Public Comments Forms
1 Meetings
___ Phone Calls
___ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

22 Colorado
___ Utah
3 Other

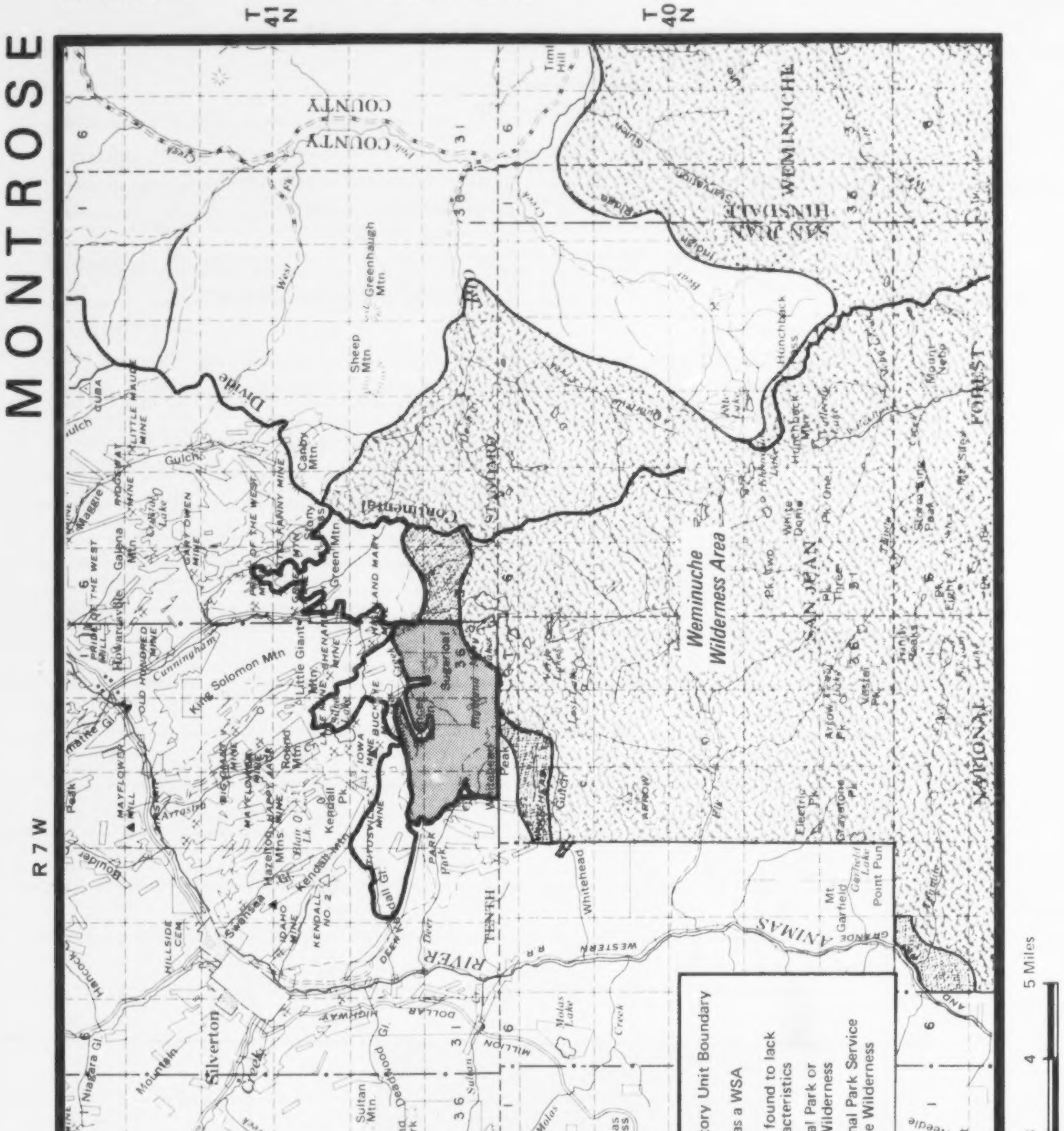
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

19 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
5 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	5			3		2
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		3		3		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.		1		1		
	STATE GOVT.			1	1		
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	14	1		14		1
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	16		3
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	5		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	1		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-030-238B Weminuche Contiguous


MONTROSE
T 41 N
T 40 N
R 7 W
R 8 W
COUNTY
Divide
Continental
Weminuche Wilderness Area
WEMINUCHE
SAN JUAN
HINSDALE
SAN JUAN
NATIONAL
FOREST
Silverton
ANIMAS
RIVER
Molas Pass
Molas Lake
Little Molas Lake
Sultan Mtn.
Grand Turk
Bear Mtn.
Copper Gl
Mineral
King Solomon Mtn
Cunningham
Howardsville
Galena Mtn.
Canby Mtn
Sheep Mtn
Greenhaugh Mtn
Hunchback Pass
Kendall Mtn
Kendall Pk.
Little Giant Mtn
Green Mtn
Sugarloaf
Whitehead Peak
Mt. Garfield
Electric Pk.
Graystone Pk.
Arrow Pk.
Vestal Pk.
White Dome
Pk. One
Pk. Two
Pk. Three
Twin Thumbs
Storm King Peak
Mount Nebo
North Twilight Peak
Crater Lake
Needle
Point Pun
Garfield Lake
Whitehead
Deer Park
Tenth
Elk Park
Hazelton Mtn
Swansea
Hillside Cem.
Niagara Gl.
Anvil
Mountain
Deadwood Gl
Million Dollar Highway
Denver and Rio Grande Western R.R.
Campground
550
0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles
N

▮ Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary

▨ Unit identified as a WSA

☐ Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics

▨ Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness

▨ Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness

CO-030-238B
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

WEMINUCHE CONTIGUOUS

CO-030-238B

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 4,600 acres intensively inventoried
2,240 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
1,840 acres identified as a WSA (adjacent to U.S. Forest Service Weminuche Wilderness - 401,410 acres)
(adjacent to RARE II Area #297 - 460 acres and #298 - 440 acres)

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: _X_ Yes ____ No

Additions _0_ acres Deletions _400_ acres
(as result of public comment)

GENERAL LOCATION: Adjacent to San Juan National Forest, five miles southwest of Silverton, and four miles south of Howardsville (San Juan County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision:
8/78: In the initial phase of the inventory, Unit CO-030-238B did not exist because it was identified as being part of CO-030-238A, CO-030-230 and CO-030-238. As described below, Unit CO-030-238B is the result of combining Units CO-030-238A, CO-030-230 and CO-030-238 later on in the inventory process. Units CO-030-230 and CO-030-238 are contained within a Special Project Area. Therefore, an accelerated intensive inventory was completed prior to the initiation of the Bureau-wide inventory. Unit CO-030-230 contained 4,560 acres and Unit CO-030-238 contained 1,420 acres.

3/14/79: The initial inventory situation evaluation for Unit CO-030-238A recommended 600 acres for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: Following the public comment period (5/79 to 7/79), 4,560 acres of Unit CO-030-230 and 1,420 acres of Unit CO-030-238 were proposed as a WSA. At this time, 600 acres of Unit CO-030-238A were identified for intensive inventory.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: Intensive inventory field studies of Unit CO-030-238A indicated that Units CO-030-230 and CO-030-238 were contiguous with Unit CO-030-238A. Additional intensive inventory field work conducted during the summer of 1979 resulted in several boundary adjustments to Units CO-030-230 and CO-030-238 before they were combined with Unit CO-030-238A, thus creating Unit CO-030-238B. Three deletions were made on Unit CO-030-230 as a result of field checks. Approximately 480 acres were deleted from the central portion because its naturalness was impaired by mining activity. Another 400 acres were deleted from the southern part of the unit to exclude National Forest lands that were previously included in the unit. A narrow finger totaling 280 acres was deleted from the northern portion of the unit. These boundary adjustments resulted in Unit CO-030-230 being split into two parts, with the eastern half being combined with Unit CO-030-238 and CO-030-238A to form Unit CO-030-238B. Two parts of Unit CO-030-238 were omitted prior to its combination with Units CO-030-238A and CO-030-230. Approximately 960 acres of Forest Service lands were inadvertantly included in the unit and were thus deleted. Another 240 acres were excluded from the northern part of the unit because the narrow configuration of this portion did not provide for outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation. The 2,240 acres of Unit CO-030-238B were proposed as a WSA.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: All land within the unit is public land administered by the BLM. Portions of Unit CO-030-238B are leased for grazing, and it contains some unpatented mining claims. Approximately 640 acres within the unit are patented mineral rights of the State of Colorado. The area is surrounded by a mixture of private land, BLM-administered public lands and National Forest lands. The unit is contiguous to the 401,410-acre Weminuche Wilderness and USFS RARE II Areas #A297, Whitehead Peak (460 acres) and #A298, Cunningham Creek (440 acres) which have been recommended by the USFS for wilderness designation.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The unit consists of high peaks and alpine and subalpine meadows and ridges between 10,800 feet and 13,434 feet. Small portions of the unit support a spruce forest, while the remaining area is rocky and supports alpine tundra of grasses and wildflowers. There are numerous running streams with cascading waterfalls. These form drainage patterns that radiate from Whitehead Peak and Sugarloaf.

Imprints of Man: Imprints of man in the unit include ways and past mining activity. The way into Spencer Basin is mostly a two-wheel track with some construction that has a low impact overall on naturalness. This way, however, is substantially noticeable and in combination with bulldozed mining activity, pits and shafts has been excluded by a "cherrystem". There are about 12 exploration pits within Spencer Basin and 20 others scattered throughout the unit. These are about five feet across with the removed material piled next to the pit. The imprints of man within this unit are minor and do not impair the naturalness of the area due to the topographic screening within the unit. The Weminuche Contiguous unit is affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Three comments suggested that the presence of past mining activity, primarily in Spencer Basin, impairs the naturalness of this unit. The mining activity consists of a number of shallow exploration pits which are screened from view in most places by the topography and which, in the larger context of the unit as a whole, do not significantly detract from the natural appearance of the area. One comment suggested that, since there are some unpatented mining claims in the area, there should be access "roads" to these claims. However, BLM field work did not find roads in the area. One comment indicated the possible presence of "heavily traveled jeep roads" and "ore-hauling roads"; however, field examinations found no such roads within this unit. One comment expressed concern over a county road (no location given) and an area of mining activity near the Titusville Mine. No county roads have been included in the unit. The Titusville Mine has been excluded. Five of the comments addressing naturalness agreed with BLM's evaluation of the unit as being primarily natural in character. Two of these felt that the minor mining impacts did not significantly detract from naturalness. The other gave no specific information. A boundary adjustment was made which excludes a noticeable way along Spencer Creek and into Spencer Basin. Past mining activity, accomplished by bulldozer work in the past and still substantially noticeable, was cherrystemmed and is no longer included within the unit. Areas in Kendal Gulch and Arrastra Basin were excluded because of substantially noticeable past mining activities and are no longer included with the unit.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: The unit consists of a mountainous landscape with rugged drainages, peaks and ridges. Topographic relief provides for outstanding opportunities for solitude within the unit. The large acreage of adjacent Forest Service lands being managed for wilderness values greatly enhances opportunities for solitude.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eight comments were received which agreed with BLM's finding that the unit does provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. While one of these noted the ruggedness of the terrain as a factor influencing solitude opportunities, the others simply made the statement that the unit does provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: The majority of the unit is characterized by alpine tundra which allows unconfined movement for cross-country travel. This, in combination with existing hiking trails and the high scenic quality of the area, provides for outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation activities such as hiking, horseback riding, mountain climbing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, photography or sightseeing. These opportunities are greatly enhanced with the contiguous USFS lands being managed for wilderness values.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Six comments were received which agreed with BLM's evaluation that the unit does provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, although no new or specific information was provided.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: The scenic quality of the area is outstanding with alpine basins and several 13,000-foot plus mountain peaks. Much of this area is alpine tundra with numerous wildflowers. Several streams flow through the area. Wide panoramic views of the surrounding mountains can be seen from within this unit. The area also contains ecological interest due to the presence of the Altain Starwort (Stellaria irrigua), which is proposed endangered on the Federal Register list of Endangered and Threatened Plants.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Six comments addressed the presence of supplemental values in the unit. The Altain Starwort was mentioned in two of the comments. Scenic, geologic and historical values were mentioned by the others.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

No portions of this unit require active rehabilitation. The evidence of past mining activity is a significant imprint of man which cannot be reclaimed, according to one comment. Another comment stated these imprints of man could be reclaimed through natural processes. In BLM's evaluation, the imprints did not significantly detract from the area's naturalness and did not require rehabilitation, with the exception of those portions excluded or cherrystemmed. These portions could not be rehabilitated by natural processes or hand labor in a timely manner.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The Weminuche Contiguous unit is primarily natural in character. Several comments noted the evidence of past mineral exploration and mining activity. However, these imprints of man are minor and do not significantly detract from the unit's overall naturalness. The rugged and highly scenic mountain terrain provides outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The unit meets all the criteria required of a WSA.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

Two comments stated the area contains potential mineral resources, although neither mentioned any specific minerals. One comment noted the State had surface and mineral rights and suggested that land exchanges would preclude any problems.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Weminuche Contiguous
CO 030 238B

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 24

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 30
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:
19 Personal Letters
1 Postcards
2 Public Comments Forms
2 Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

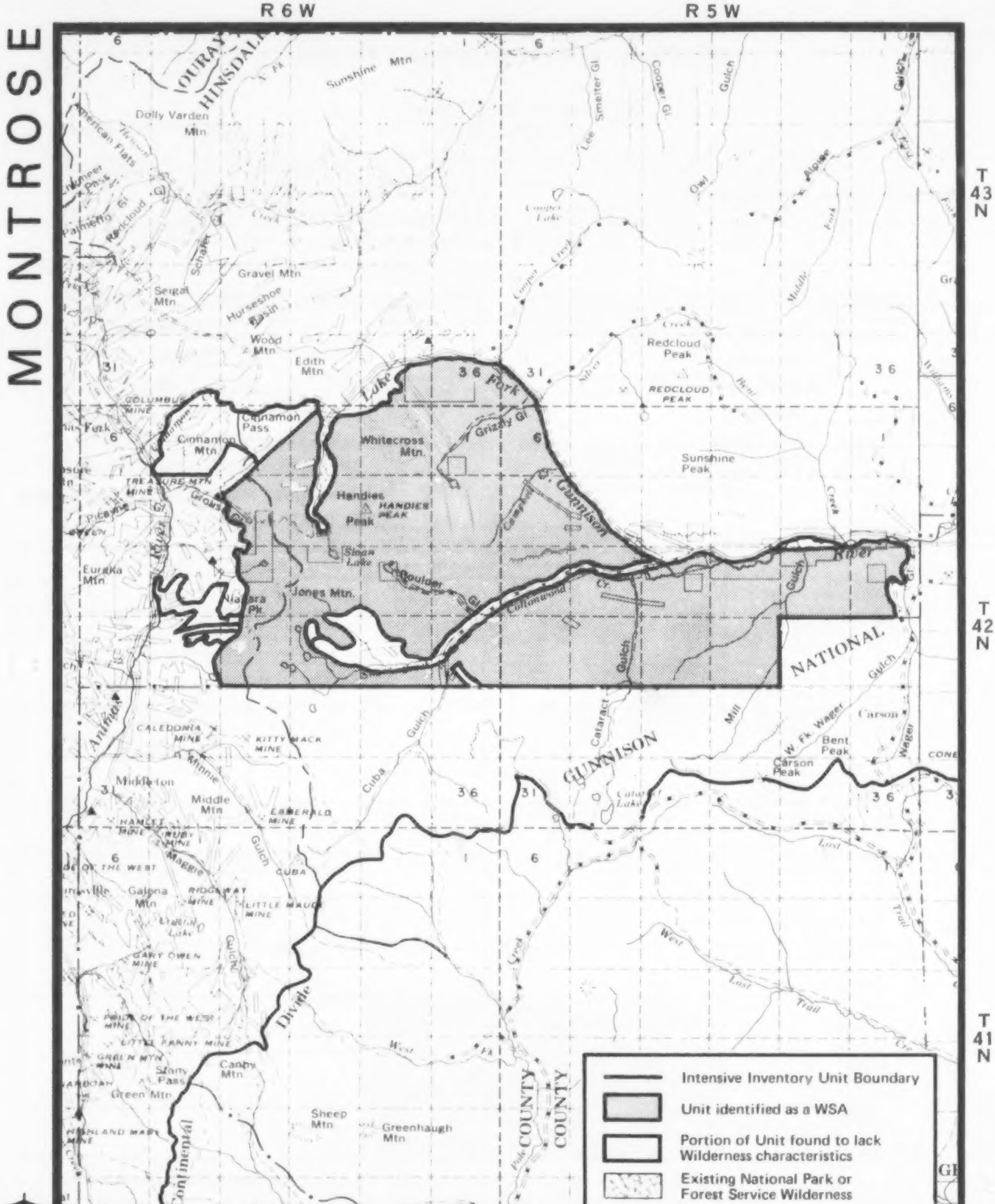
GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:
22 Colorado
____ Utah
2 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:
18 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
5 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	3			2		1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		3		3		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.		1		1		
	STATE GOVT.	1		1	2		
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	14	1		14		1
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	16		2
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	5		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	1		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-030-241 Handies Peak



R 6 W
R 5 W
MONTROSE
T 43 N
T 42 N
T 41 N
N
OURAY
HINSDALE
Sunshine Mtn
Dolly Varden Mtn
American Flats
Engineer Pass
Palmetto Gl
Redcloud Gl
Schafer
Gravel Mtn
Seigal Mtn
Horseshoe Basin
Wood Mtn
Edith Mtn
Cooper Lake
Cooper Creek
Lee Smelter Gl
Cooper Gl.
Gulch
Owl
Alpine
Middle Fork
Redcloud Peak
REDCLOUD PEAK
Sunshine Peak
Creek
Bent
COLUMBUS MINE
Cinnamon Pass
Cinnamon Mtn
Lake Fork
Grizzly Gl
Whitecross Mtn.
Handies Peak
HANDIES PEAK
Gunnison
River
TREASURE MTN MINE
Grouse Gl
Picayune Gl
Eureka Mtn
Sloan Lake
Boulder Gl
Niagara Pk.
Jones Mtn.
Cottonwood Cr.
Gulch
NATIONAL
Animas
CALEDONIA MINE
KITTY MACK MINE
Minnie
Middleton
Middle Mtn
EMERALD MINE
Cuba Gulch
Cataract
Cataract Lake
Mill
GUNNISON
Carson Peak
Bent Peak
Carson
W Fk Wager
Wager Gulch
HAMLET MINE
RUBY MINE
Maggie
CUBA
Galena Mtn
RIDGEWAY MINE
LITTLE MAUD MINE
GARY OWEN MINE
Gulch
Lost Trail
West
Divide
PRIDE OF THE WEST MINE
LITTLE FANNY MINE
GREEN MTN MINE
Stony Pass
Green Mtn
Canby Mtn
Sheep Mtn
Greenhaugh Mtn
HIGHLAND MARY MINE
Continental
Deep Cr
RIO
STANDARD
COUNTY
COUNTY
Pole Creek
West Fk
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles

HANDIES PEAK

CO-030-241

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 19,560 acres intensively inventoried
15,780 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
16,100 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: X Yes ____ No

Additions 560 acres Deletions 240 acres
(as result of public comments)

GENERAL LOCATION: Northeast of Silverton (San Juan - Hinsdale Counties)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Intensive Inventory 7/78: An accelerated intensive inventory for this unit was completed prior to the initiation of the Bureau-wide inventory because the unit was contained within a Special Project Area. Therefore, no initial inventory was conducted. This unit contained 19,560 acres.

Proposed WSA Decision:
8/31/79: Following the public comment period (5/79 to 7/79), 19,560 acres were proposed as a WSA.

2/1/80: Additional intensive field studies conducted during the summer of 1979 resulted in 15,780 acres proposed as a WSA. Approximately 680 acres were deleted in Upper Snare Creek owing to the presence of several constructed ways that reduced the naturalness of this portion. An additional 480 acres were deleted in Upper Lake Fork because of the impact of several ways on the naturalness of this portion. An irregular boundary consisting of narrow fingers of private land was adjusted resulting in a deletion of 1,040 acres. Another 300 acres were deleted west of Niagara Peak because of its narrow configuration. These deletions, in combination with the omissions of National Forest lands which were previously inventoried, resulted in 15,780 acres being proposed as a WSA.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: The unit contains 16,100 acres of public land administered by BLM. There are approximately 170 acres of private land inholdings (patented mining claims) within the unit, but they are not considered in the unit acreage nor are they inventoried for wilderness characteristics. The unit also contains unpatented mining claims and portions leased for grazing. The unit is surrounded by private lands, BLM public lands and National Forest lands.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The unit is a rugged area of high mountains and steep drainages. Many of the peaks are over 13,000 feet; the highest being Handies Peak at 14,048 feet. The area also contains alpine lakes within natural amphitheaters and perennial creeks flowing over steep embankments forming waterfalls. The drainages support dense forests of subalpine fir. Aspens cover the lower slopes of the mountains. Vast meadows of alpine tundra blanket the higher elevations and constitute a majority of the area.

Imprints of Man: The unit is primarily natural in character with only minor imprints of man. A few sheepherder camps are located in the upper portion of Grizzly Creek, but are substantially unnoticeable. Old mining prospects and adits are found within the unit but are not substantially noticeable and are considered to be of historical value.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Nine comments were received which agreed with BLM's determination that the unit is primarily natural in character. No new information was provided. One comment was received stating that the area is not natural in appearance and contains heavily traveled jeep roads. No specific locations or delineations were given. One comment noted that a road goes up further into Snare Basin than the BLM originally determined. This same comment mentioned a road in the "northern" area. No specific location was given. A field evaluation (7/80) found a bulldozed vehicle access route in Snare Basin. No relatively recent maintenance is noticeable, but the way is a significant impairment by man. Some bulldozed mining activity is found at the end of this way. This mining activity and way have been excluded from within the unit. A vehicle way, originally bulldozed but with no current maintenance, is found in American Basin. This way and an area of past heavy mining activity have been excluded from the unit. One comment said that roads are found in Burns and Grouse Canyons. These roads were excluded at the 2/1/80 WSA proposal phase and are not within the unit. During the field evaluation, approximately 560 acres of land in American Basin were included within the unit as this land is primarily natural in character. No comments specifically addressed this portion of the unit.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: The large size of the area with numerous remote drainages descending from 13,000-foot plus peaks, combined with the feeling of vastness created by the surrounding mountainous terrain, provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. In the drainages and lower slopes of the mountains, vegetative screening provides privacy and seclusion contributing to opportunities for solitude. Natural amphitheaters formed by glacial cirques in the higher elevations offer enclosed areas which enhance the outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Sixteen comments were received concerning the solitude criteria. Thirteen of these comments felt the unit contained outstanding opportunities for solitude. These comments concur with the BLM's 2/1/80 recommendation. Rationale enhancing the description of solitude included: the large size of the area, rugged topography, and dense vegetation. One comment specifically stated that Boulder Basin, Sloan Lake and Mill Gulch contained opportunities for solitude. Three comments asserted that the unit did not offer solitude. Two of these comments mentioned the presence of aircraft flying overhead. Outside sights and sounds are not considered during the inventory phase of the wilderness review, but will be taken into account during the study phase. Another comment stated that irregular boundary of the unit limited opportunities for solitude.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: The large size of the unit and its varied topography, consisting of steep drainages, open parks of alpine tundra, and high mountain peaks, provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation activities such as hiking, backpacking, mountain climbing, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and sightseeing. In addition, the high scenic quality of the unit enhances the primitive, unconfined recreation opportunities.

Evaluation of Public Comments: All eleven of the comments received addressing primitive recreation agreed with the BLM's 2/1/80 recommendation that the unit contained outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: The scenic quality of the area is outstanding due to the rugged mountain landscape with numerous 13,000-foot plus peaks, glacial features and vegetative patterns.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Thirteen comments stated the area contained supplemental values. Supplemental values which were mentioned included beautiful scenery, 14,000-foot peaks, wildlife habitat, as well as geologic and ecologic values.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

The minor imprints of man within the unit--ways and shepherd camps--do not require reclaiming; however, three comments stated these imprints had potential for reclamation. One statement said reclamation was too expensive in terms of both time and money. Areas excluded cannot be rehabilitated by natural processes or hand labor in a timely manner.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The Handies Peak unit contains a large acreage that is primarily natural in character. The rugged topography of the higher elevations, in addition to dense vegetation along the drainages and slopes, provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation. The high peaks and scenic quality of the unit add supplemental value. The unit meets all the criteria of a Wilderness Study Area.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

Five comments stated the unit contained deposits of various hard rock minerals, one of which felt the resource should be saved for future, less destructive generations. The potential for uranium as well as oil and gas was mentioned.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Handies Peak
CO 030 241

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 35

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 58
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:
32 Personal Letters
___ Postcards
2 Public Comments Forms
1 Meetings
___ Phone Calls
___ Other

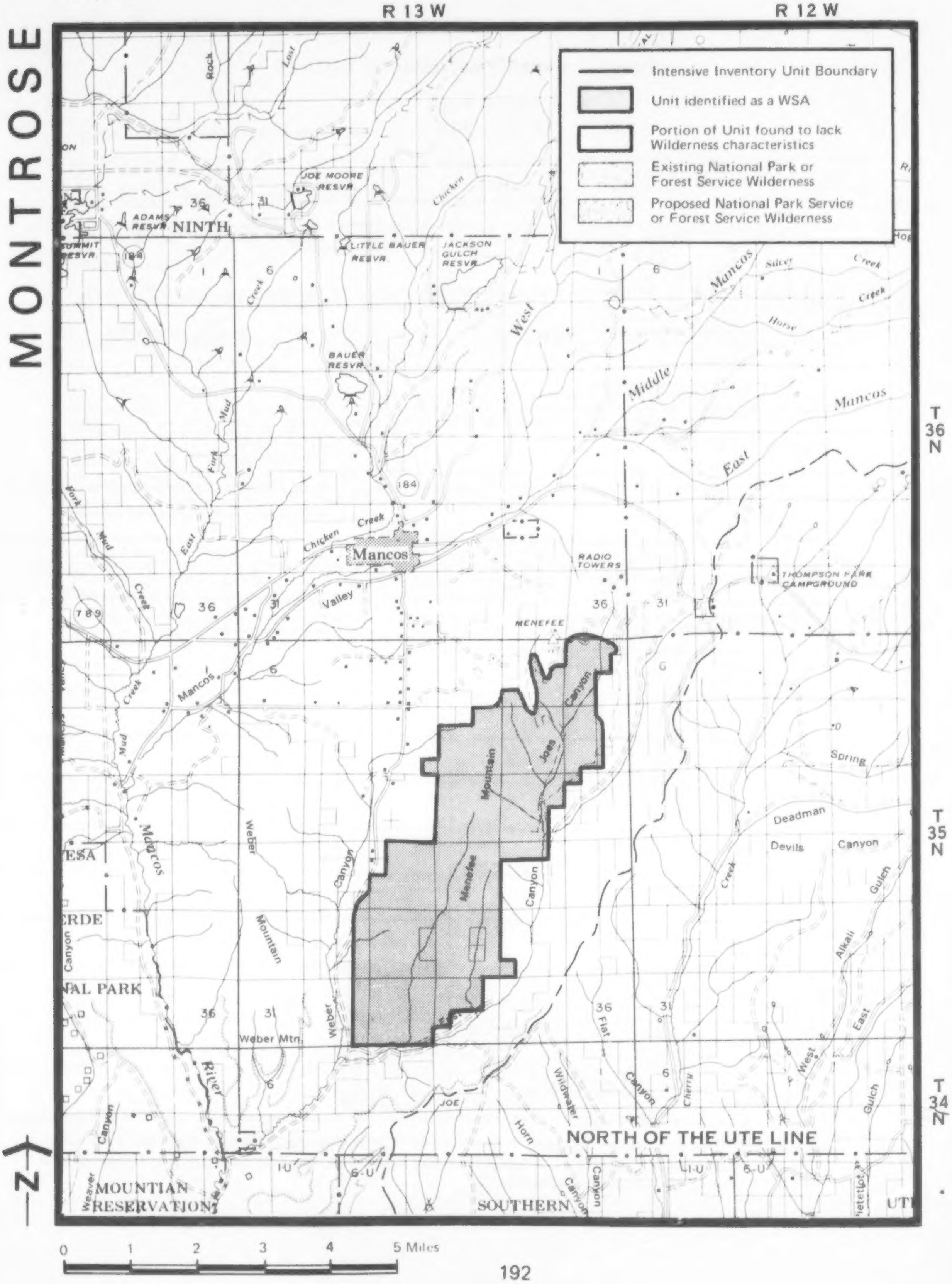
GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:
29 Colorado
___ Utah
6 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:
27 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
7 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	4			2		2
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		3		1		2
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.		1		1		
	STATE GOVT.			1	1		
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	23	3		24		2
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	23		4
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	5		2
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	1		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-030-251 Menefee Mountain


R 13 W
R 12 W
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
T 36 N
T 35 N
T 34 N
Mancos
MENEFEE
RADIO TOWERS
THOMPSON PARK CAMPGROUND
JOE MOORE RESVR
ADAMS RESVR
NINTH
SUMMIT RESVR
LITTLE BAUER RESVR
JACKSON GULCH RESVR
BAUER RESVR
Chicken Creek
West Mancos
Middle Mancos
East Mancos
Menefee Mountain
Joe Canyon
Weber Canyon
Weber Mountain
Weber Mtn.
Deadman Canyon
Devils Canyon
Alkali Gulch
Spring
Mancos River
NORTH OF THE UTE LINE
MOUNTIAN RESERVATION
SOUTHERN
N
0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles

CO-030-251
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

MENEFEE MOUNTAIN

CO-030-251

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 7,360 acres intensively inventoried
7,360 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
7,360 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____Yes _X_No

GENERAL LOCATION: Twenty-one miles west of Durango (Montezuma County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: The initial inventory situation evaluation recommended 7,360 acres for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: Following the public comment period (5/79 to 7/79), 7,360 acres were identified for intensive inventory.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: The proposed WSA contained 7,360 acres following the intensive field inventory conducted during the summer of 1979.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: There is one non-public land inholding of about 40 acres contained within the unit (T. 35N., R. 13W., NMPM, Section 27: SW¼NE¼), but it is not considered in the unit acreage nor has it been inventoried for wilderness characteristics. The entire area has been leased for oil and gas; portions for coal. In addition, the unit is leased for grazing. The unit is bounded by a mixture of public and private lands.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The Menefee Mountain unit includes a mountain and associated canyon topography. The unit is primarily natural in character and contains a number of physical features such as vertically-walled canyons, overhanging cliffs, and varied plant communities. Pinyon-juniper and various mountain shrubs constitute the primary vegetation. At higher elevations the pinyon-juniper gives way to oakbrush which becomes the dominant species above 7,000 feet. Scattered stands of ponderosa pine and Douglas fir can also be found associated with the oak habitat.

Imprints of Man: Only minor imprints of man are found within the unit. Most of these imprints are ways in the northern portion of the unit and within East Canyon. All imprints are returning to a natural condition and are effectively screened by vegetation and topography. The area is affected primarily by the forces of nature with man's imprint substantially unnoticeable.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Nine comments agreed with the BLM's determination that the unit was primarily natural in character. Three comments stated the unit was not natural. One of these statements said the unit was penetrated by firebreaks and ways as well as being affected by sheep grazing. The area containing firebreaks and roads bulldozed during the suppression of a large fire were excluded from the unit in the Initial Inventory. Sheep grazing is permitted within a Wilderness area as defined in the Wilderness Act of 1964 and was not determined to have substantially affected the natural character of the landscape.

Another comment stated that tne area's naturalness was adversely impacted by numerous outside developments. Outside sights and sounds are not considered during the intensive inventory. Mines, fences, dwellings and reservoirs were said to exist, according to another comment. These imprints of man have been inventoried and evaluated. The mines are substantially unnoticeable and are effectively screened visually by topography and vegetation. There is an old deteriorating log cabin near the mouth of Joe's Canyon and a fence line largely screened by vegetation. A small, significantly unnoticeable stock reservoir is located within the southern portion of the unit. None of these imprints are deemed to have adversely affected the natural character of the land.

Three comments addressing roads were received. Two of these statements said the area contained old mining roads; however, no specific locations were given for these roads. One comment stated that the area was roadless. The boundary of this unit has excluded all roads. Five substantially unnoticeable vehicle ways which receive no maintenance are within the unit. The majority of these ways are impassable and have revegetated naturally.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Because of the rugged topography and the vegetative screening inherent to pinyon-juniper and oakbrush habitats, this unit has outstanding opportunities for solitude. The presence of numerous canyons and the lack of a distinct focal point within the unit tends to disperse use, also contributing to opportunities for solitude.

Evaluation of Public Comments: The 2/1/80 BLM determination that the unit contained outstanding opportunities for solitude was supported in nine comments. Two letters stated that outstanding solitude did not exist in the area due to the presence of man's activities on all sides of the unit. Outside sights and sounds are not considered during this phase of the inventory process.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: The rugged terrain of the unit--steep-sided canyons and cliff-rimmed mesa tops--provides challenging hiking, backpacking and climbing opportunities. From the top of Menefee Mountain, there are panoramic vistas which take in several surrounding mountain ranges and a series of plateaus. These scenic vistas provide opportunities for sightseeing and photography and enhance the other recreation opportunities available in the unit. The Menefee Mountain unit does provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Ten comments concurred with the BLM's 2/1/80 recommendation that the unit contained outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. Several of these comments described how the unit's scenery, botany, archeology and wildlife created opportunities for hiking, photography, birdwatching and cross-country skiing. One letter stated the unit does not contain opportunities for primitive recreation but no specific information was given.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: The Menefee Mountain unit has a number of supplemental values which enhance its wilderness quality. The unit includes several significant archeological sites. Its physical features provide educational as well as scenic value. A variety of wildlife inhabit the area including six pairs of golden eagles and two pair of bald eagles during the winter. The area also contains habitat suitable for a number of proposed endangered plants.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eleven comments stated the unit contained supplemental values. Possible supplemental values which were mentioned include scenic vistas, archeological sites, critical wildlife habitat, unique geology, rare and endangered plants and scientific values. No new information was identified.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

Imprints within the unit are minor and do not require rehabilitation. Four comments addressing reclamation potential were received. Three of these comments stated that the unit would reclaim itself. Another commentor felt no reclamation was necessary.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The Menefee Mountain unit is of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. It has outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation as well as several supplemental values which enhance its wilderness quality. The intensive inventory revealed that the unit does meet the criteria required of a Wilderness Study Area.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

Several comments mentioned that the unit was underlain by coal deposits. Other comments stated the unit also contained high potential for carbon dioxide, uranium, as well as oil and gas. A couple letters said the unit contained range-related conflicts.

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STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Menefee Mountain
CO 030 251

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 25

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 26
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

20 Personal Letters
_____ Postcards
2 Public Comments Forms
2 Meetings
1 Phone Calls
_____ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

21 Colorado
_____ Utah
4 Other

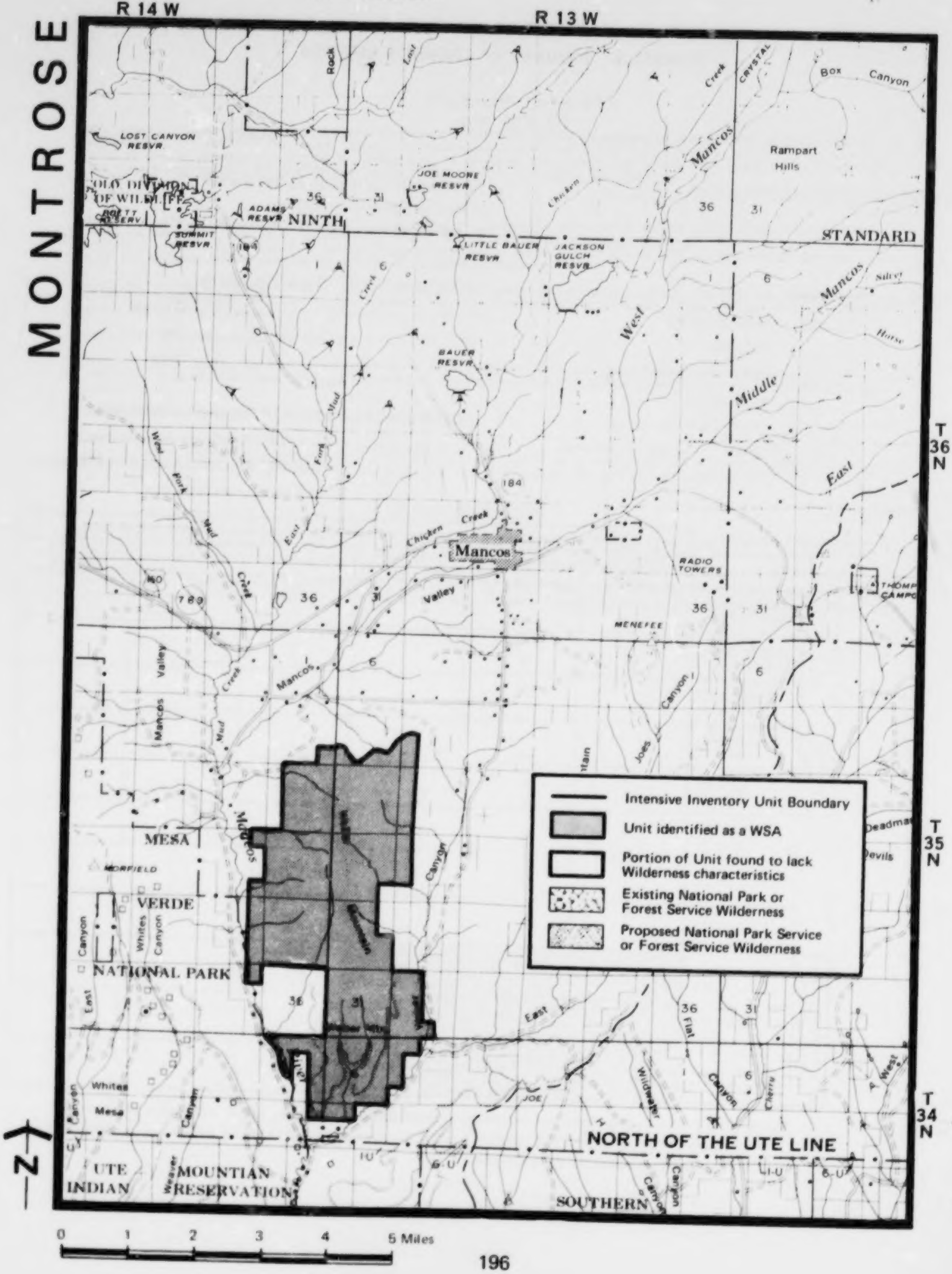
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

17 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
6 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
2 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP	4			2		2
	INDUSTRY/BUSINESS	1	2		2		1
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.		1		1		
	STATE GOVT.	1		1	2		
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	10	3	1	13		1
	OTHER	1			1		
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	13		4
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	6		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	2		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-030-252 Weber Mountain


MONTROSE
R 14 W
R 13 W
T 36 N
T 35 N
T 34 N
N
LOST CANYON RESVR
JOE MOORE RESVR
ADAMS RESVR
SUMMIT RESVR
LITTLE BAUER RESVR
JACKSON GULCH RESVR
BAUER RESVR
NINTH
STANDARD
Box Canyon
Rampart Hills
Mancos
West Mancos
Middle
East
Chicken Creek
Mud Creek
Valley
RADIO TOWERS
MENEFEE
MESA
VERDE
NATIONAL PARK
Whites Mesa
NORTH OF THE UTE LINE
UTE MOUNTAIN INDIAN RESERVATION
SOUTHERN
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

CO-030-252
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

WEBER MOUNTAIN

CO-030-252

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 6,320 acres intensively inventoried
6,320 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
6,320 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____ Yes __X__ No

GENERAL LOCATION: Twenty-four miles west of Durango (Montezuma County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: The initial inventory situation evaluation recommended 6,560 acres for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: Following the public comment period (5/79 to 7/79), 6,560 acres were identified for intensive inventory.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: No boundary adjustments were made as a result of the intensive field inventory conducted during the summer of 1979; however, only 6,320 acres are included in the proposed WSA because of an error in the previous acreage calculations.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: All the lands within the unit are public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. It is surrounded by a mixture of public and private lands. Grazing leases exist within the unit as well as some oil and gas leases.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The unit consists of numerous small canyons radiating from a somewhat linear-shaped mountain. Along the slopes of the mountain and within the canyons exposed sandstone rock forms overhangs and vertical cliffs. The vegetation consists primarily of pinyon/juniper with park-like areas of sagebrush interspersed throughout, and some conifers and scrub oak near the top of the mountain.

Imprints of Man: The unit is pristine in character with only one minor imprint within its boundaries. An old, dry reservoir can be found in the center of the unit, but it is revegetated and returning to a natural condition. The area is primarily affected by the forces of nature and is free of any substantial imprint of man.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Ten comments addressing naturalness were received. Nine of these comments supported the BLM's 2/1/80 decision which determined that the area was in a natural condition. Several of these comments stated the area was primarily natural in character despite small imprints of man because these imprints were hardly noticeable. One comment stated the area was unnatural because it was penetrated by firebreaks and numerous vehicular ways. There are no known firebreaks or vehicular ways within the unit. It appears this comment was directed towards Menefee Mountain rather than Weber Mountain.

Two letters addressed the presence/non-presence of roads in the unit. One letter stated the unit contained old mining roads; however, no specific locations for these roads were given. Another comment stated the area was roadless. No roads have been found within the unit.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Due to the rugged topography of Weber Mountain and its associated drainages and vegetative screening provided by dense stands of pinyon/juniper and scrub oak, Unit No. CO-030-252 possesses outstanding opportunities for solitude. The general configuration of the mountain and the limited access into the unit provide a sense of remoteness and seclusion which contribute to feelings of solitude.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eleven comments supported the 2/1/80 decision made by the BLM which stated the unit contained outstanding opportunities for solitude. Rugged topography and dense pinyon/juniper woodlands were several of the reasons why these commentors felt the area offered solitude. One comment stated the unit did not offer opportunities for solitude because an individual could not get more than a half mile away from the activities of man. Outside sights and sounds are not considered during this phase of the inventory process.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: The Weber Mountain unit possesses outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Its rugged terrain provides hardy challenges to the hiker and climber. Supplemental values within the unit such as panoramic vantage points, wildlife and archaeological sites could enhance the various recreation opportunities. Lack of water in the unit could be a limiting factor, yet a number of recreational activities could still be pursued. The unit is especially suited for hiking, climbing, exploring, photography, wildlife observation, hunting and general sightseeing.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Ten comments addressing primitive recreation were received. Nine of these comments felt the unit contained outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. Types of primitive recreation which were cited as being outstanding include birdwatching, hiking, photography, camping and the viewing of archeological resources. One comment stated the area does not offer outstanding primitive recreation although no specific rationale was given.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: The area is rich in archeological resources and a number of significant sites have been located. In addition, the area contains excellent habitat for wildlife.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Twelve comments stated the unit contained various supplemental values. Most of these comments mentioned the presence of numerous archeological sites within the unit. Other supplemental values which were mentioned included winter habitat for big game, outstanding scenery, natural flora and habitat for golden and bald eagles. One comment noted the adjacency of the area to Mesa Verde National Park. This portion of the National Park is not presently wilderness or recommended for wilderness designation.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

Only one minor imprint was found within the unit and it does not require rehabilitation. One comment stated the unit would reclaim itself. Another felt the area had reclamation potential. The third letter said the unit could be reclaimed since an old reservoir had been reclaimed by natural vegetation growth.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The Weber Mountain unit is of sufficient size (6,320 acres) to be managed as wilderness. No significant imprints of man are contained within the unit; it is affected primarily by the forces of nature. It contains outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive and unconfined creation, due to the rugged canyon and mesa terrain and dense pinyon/juniper and scrub oak vegetation. It meets all the criteria required of a Wilderness Study Area.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

Five comments provided non-inventory information. Three statements mentioned the unit contained deposits of coal and one mentioned shallow oil and gas wells in the southern part of the area. Another two comments stated the area contained range-related resource conflicts, expressing that a multiple use classification was more appropriate. One comment suggested the development of an archeological identification protection plan for the area. One commentor felt that wilderness designation would protect the area from vandalism. One comment stated concern regarding conflict with a pipeline right-of-way. One comment identified the unit in terms of mineral rights, proposing land exchange in order to avoid conflict.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Weber Mountain
CO 030 252

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 22

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 23
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:
15 Personal Letters
____ Postcards
5 Public Comments Forms
1 Meetings
1 Phone Calls
____ Other

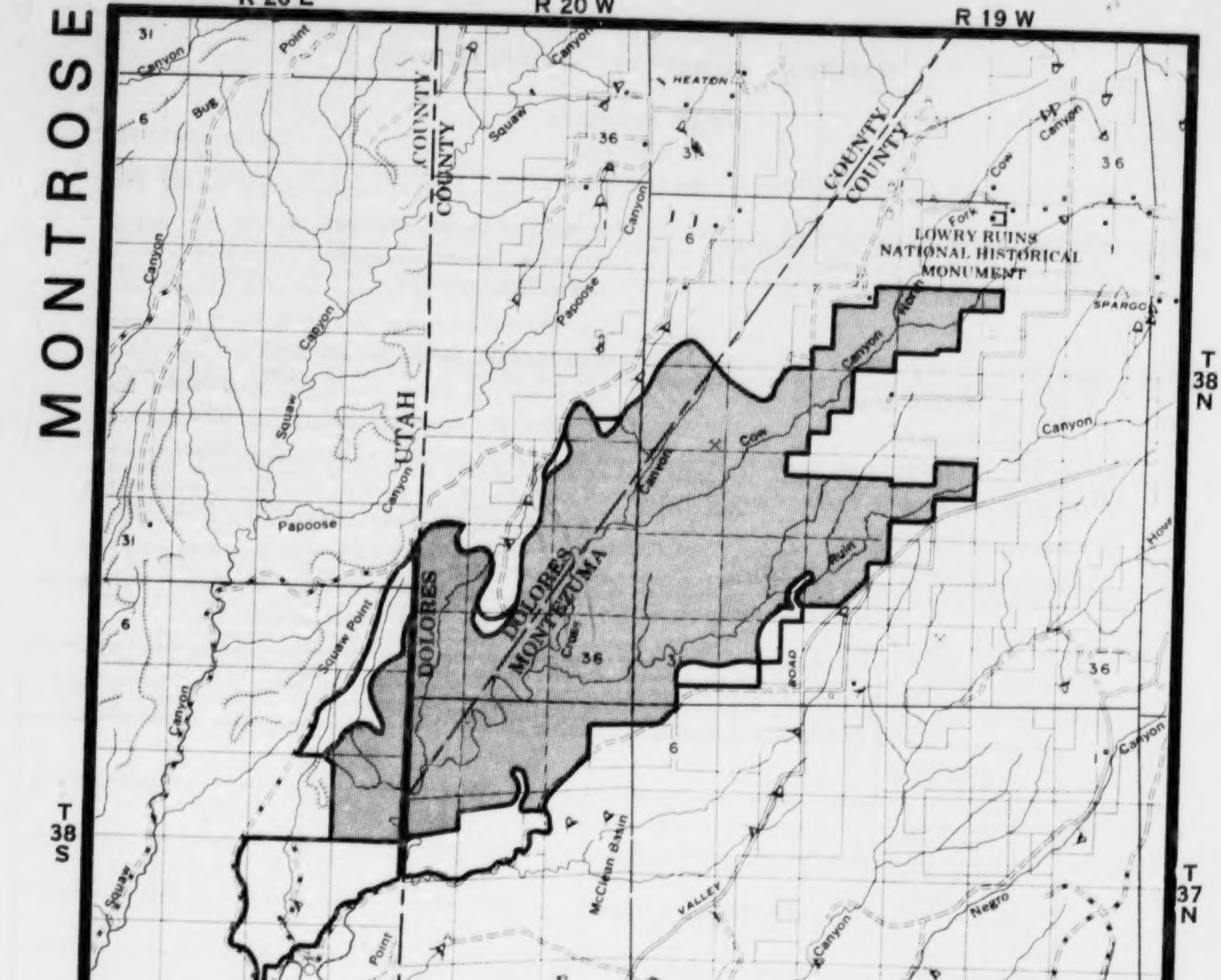
GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:
18 Colorado
____ Utah
4 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:
15 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
5 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
2 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	4			2		2
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS	1	1		1		1
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.		1		1		
	STATE GOVT.			1	1		
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	9	3	1	12		1
	OTHER	1			1		
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	11		4
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	5		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	2		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-030-265 Cross Canyon


R 26 E
R 20 W
R 19 W
MONTROSE
T 38 N
T 37 N
T 38 S
T 39 S
UTAH
COLORADO
SAN JUAN COUNTY
DOLORES COUNTY
MONTEZUMA COUNTY
DOLORES
MONTEZUMA
LOWRY RUINS NATIONAL HISTORICAL MONUMENT
HOVENWEEP NATIONAL MONUMENT
CUTTHROAT CASTLE GROUP RUINS
HORSESHOE HOUSE
HOLLY HOUSE
HEATON
SPARGO
McClean Basin
Squaw Canyon
Bug Canyon
Papoose Canyon
Squaw Point
Cow Canyon
Cross Canyon
Ruin Canyon
Negro Canyon
Sandstone Canyon
Hovenweep Canyon
Cajon Lake
PLEASANT VIEW ROAD
VALLEY
NINTH
MONTY
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
N
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

CO-030-265
UT-060-229
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

CROSS CANYON

CO-030-265
UT-060-229

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 11,272 acres intensively inventoried (CO - 9,160 acres; UT - 2,112 acres)
9,160 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation (CO - 9,160 acres; UT - 0 acres)
9.440 acres identified as a WSA (CO - 8,440 acres; UT - 1,000 acres)

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: X Yes ____ No

Additions 0 acres   Deletions 720 acres (CO - 720 acres; UT - 0 acres)

GENERAL LOCATION: Approximately 14 miles southwest of Cahone (Dolores - Montezuma Counties)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision:
3/14/79: The initial inventory situation evaluation recommended that 9,640 acres of Unit CO-030-265 be intensively inventoried.

7/79: The Utah BLM recommended that Unit UT-060-229 not be an intensive inventory unit. This area is contiguous with CO-030-265.

Final Initial Inventory Decision:
8/31/79: Several boundary adjustments were made as a result of public comment received during the comment period (5/79 to 7/79) as well as from field checks. The cumulative effect of several abandoned oil and gas drill pads, old mine adits and numerous ways resulted in the deletion of 1,280 acres. These deletions divided the unit into two separate areas, which resulted in 4,320 acres being added to Unit CO-030-265D. Field checks showed that lands previously outside of the unit were natural in character; therefore, the boundaries were drawn to the edge of private lands. This resulted in a 3,840-acre addition to the unit. After these boundary adjustments, 9,160 acres were identified for intensive inventory.

8/79: The Utah BLM recommended that Unit UT-060-229 not be intensively inventoried.

Proposed WSA Decision:
2/1/80: Intensive inventory field studies conducted during the summer of 1979 by the Colorado BLM indicated that no further boundary adjustments were necessary in Unit CO-030-265. Therefore, 9.160 acres were proposed as a WSA.

4/1/80: The Utah BLM recommended that 1,000 acres of Unit UT-060-229 be proposed as a WSA.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: The combined unit contains 9,440 acres of public land (8,440 acres in Colorado and 1,000 acres in Utah) administered by the BLM. No private inholdings are located in the unit. All of unit CO-030-265 is leased for grazing and oil and gas resources. There are no patented mining claims within the unit but there are numerous unpatented mining claims. The unit is surrounded by a mixture of public and private lands.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The unit consists of portions of several canyons, including Cross, Ruin and Cow Canyons, that have been cut by fluvial erosion through an uplifted sedimentary bed. Numerous rock outcrops, ledges and cliffs are exposed in the canyons that range in depth from 850 feet to 340 feet. In addition to the main canyons, there are numerous smaller tributary canyons. Pinyon/juniper woodland is the dominant vegetative cover with cottonwoods in places along the canyon bottom.

Imprints of Man: Imprints of man within the unit consist of three ways, one of which has been blocked off to allow revegetation while the other two are mainly vehicle tracks. The unit is primarily natural in character.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Ten comments were received by Colorado concerning naturalness in their portion of the unit. Three comments stated the unit is natural in character. Seven comments addressed the presence of imprints of man within the unit, mostly dealing with ways going to abandoned drill pads and chainings. As a result of these comments, 680 acres along the southern edge of the unit were dropped from further wilderness consideration where drill pads and ways are located. Along the northwest boundary, the unit was adjusted to conform to the edge of an old chaining; equal acreage was deleted and added. In addition, an old drill pad and road was excluded within Ruin Canyon totaling approximately 40 acres.

The Utah office received 6 comments addressing naturalness within their unit. One comment stated the unit was natural, while 5 said all or a portion of the unit was unnatural due to roads, reseeding or old campsites. The portion with roads and reseeding has been deleted from the unit.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: The rugged canyons with their narrow, steep inner gorges and numerous side canyons clad in dense pinyon/juniper woodland provide excellent topographic and vegetative screening. The canyon bottom has a riparian zone which supports a mixture of cottonwood, willow, tamarisk, boxelder and shrubs. The enclosed nature of the canyon system provides a feeling of intimacy which enhances opportunities for solitude. The combination of topographic and vegetative screening provides for outstanding opportunities for solitude within this unit.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Thirteen comments addressed solitude in the Colorado portion. Six comments agreed with the intensive inventory decision that the unit did offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. Seven comments did not agree with this decision, with four giving no specifics as to why. One comment cited chained areas as limiting solitude (this portion has been deleted), one cited the linear canyon shape (the winding configuration and vegetative screening reduce this effect), and one comment said the adjacent farming activity would influence solitude (outside sights and sounds are not considered in the inventory phase, but will be taken into account in the study phase of the wilderness review process). The Utah office received two comments dealing with solitude in their portion of the unit but no specifics were given.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: The Cross Canyon unit offers a variety of primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities such as hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, hunting and photography. The canyon bottoms within the unit provide foot or horseback routes and numerous secluded camping sites. More challenging cross-country routes can be found on the canyon slopes and walls. From the mesa or cliff top, there are scenic panoramas of the Cross Canyon unit and surrounding areas. This area provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eleven comments were received by Colorado and Utah addressing outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Six of these agreed with the intensive inventory decision while five did not. No specific information was given for the disagreement other than the opportunities were not outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: This unit contains several supplemental values. The Dakota Sandstone and Morrison Formation are exposed by erosion within the area and provide an opportunity to study the stratigraphy of the Jurassic and Upper Cretaceous Periods. The Morrison Formation contains fossil wood and plant remains, as well as fossil vertebrate bones. Ecologically, this unit is significant as an undisturbed refuge for indigenous flora and fauna in a region that has been greatly modified by agriculture. This unit also contains abundant archeological sites including numerous Anasazi ruin sites.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Twelve comments were received by the Colorado and Utah offices concerning supplemental values. Nine agreed with the intensive inventory decision that stated geologic, ecologic or archeologic values are present. Three comments stated no supplemental values were present but no specifics were given.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

Imprints of man within the unit are minor and do not require active rehabilitation. Five comments addressed this issue, three stating the existing imprints could be reclaimed (no specifics) and two stating the imprints could not be reclaimed due to lack of rainfall. The areas excluded could not be reclaimed using hand labor or natural processes in a timely manner.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

This unit is of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. It is primarily natural in character with no significant imprints of man. The rugged and scenic canyon system provides outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. In addition, the unit contains geological, ecological and archeological supplemental values. This area meets all the criteria required of a Wilderness Study Area.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

Twenty comments were received stating conflicts with minerals (18 comments) or range (2 comments) exist within the unit such as concerns with exploration restrictions, presence of oil, gas, coal and uranium, metallic minerals and livestock grazing. One commentor wished to see the roads (which were determined to be ways) maintained for hunting.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Cross Canyon
CO 030 265

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 32

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 33
(Often one comment is endorsed by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

25 **Personal Letters**
____ **Postcards**
5 **Public Comments Forms**
2 **Meetings**
____ **Phone Calls**
____ **Other**

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

30 **Colorado**
____ **Utah**
2 **Other**

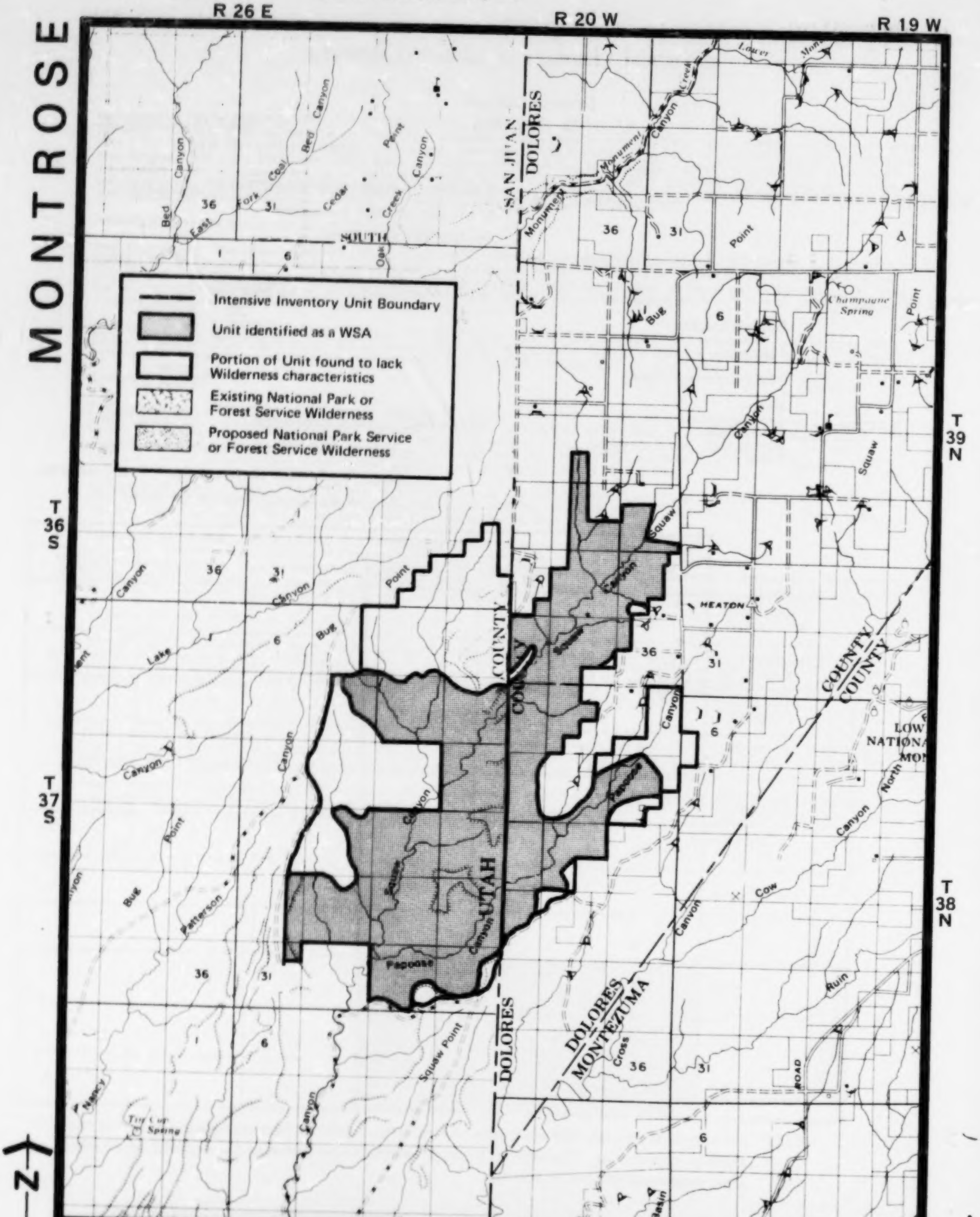
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

15 **# FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation**
17 **# AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation**
0 **# No Recommendation Given**

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	2			2		
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS	1	5		5		1
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.		1		1		
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	11	11		21		1
	OTHER	1			1		
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	13		2
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	17		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨			

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-030-265A Squaw/Papoose Canyons


MONTROSE
R 26 E
R 20 W
R 19 W
T 36 S
T 37 S
T 39 N
T 38 N
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
SAN JUAN
DOLORES
SAN JUAN COUNTY
DOLORES COUNTY
UTAH
COLO
DOLORES
MONTEZUMA
HEATON
Champagne Spring
Tin Cup Spring
Squaw Canyon
Papoose Canyon
Cross Canyon
Monument Canyon
N
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

CO-030-265A
UT-060-227
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

SQUAW/PAPOOSE CANYON

CO-030-265A
UT-060-227

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 15,320 acres intensively inventoried (CO - 5,320 acres; UT - 10,000 acres)
14,990 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendations (CO - 5,320 acres; UT - 9,670 acres)
11,260 acres identified as a WSA (CO - 4,680 acres; UT - 6,580 acres)

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: X Yes ____ No

Additions 0 acres Deletions 640 acres (CO - 640 acres; UT - 2,090 acres)
(as result of public comment)

GENERAL LOCATION: Twelve miles southwest of Dove Creek (Dolores County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision:
3/14/79: The initial inventory situation evaluation recommended 3,840 acres for intensive inventory.

4/79: The Utah BLM recommended that 10,000 acres of unit UT-060-227, which is contiguous with CO-030-265A, be intensively inventoried.

Final Initial Inventory Decision:
8/31/79: Public comment received during the public comment period (5/79 to 7/79) as well as field checks, resulted in several boundary adjustments in Unit CO-030-265A. 320 acres were deleted along the eastern edge of the unit due to the presence of an operating well and an abandoned drill pad. Another 120 acres were deleted in an area that was chained. Approximately 1,920 acres were added to include lands that are primarily natural in character, which were previously not inventoried. Following these boundary adjustments 5,320 acres were identified for intensive study.

8/79: The Utah BLM identified 10,000 acres of Unit UT-060-227 for intensive study.

Proposed WSA Decision:
2/1/80: Intensive inventory field studies conducted during the summer of 1979 indicated that no further boundary adjustments were necessary in Unit CO-030-265A. Therefore, 5,320 acres were proposed as a WSA.

4/80: Utah BLM proposed 6,580 acres of Unit UT-060-227 as a WSA.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: The unit contains 4,680 acres of public land in Colorado with no non-public inholdings. The Utah portion contains 6,580 acres of public land. This state land was not inventoried for wilderness characteristics nor was it included in the total acreage. All of Unit CO-030-265A is leased for grazing and oil and gas resources, and the area contains some unpatented mining claims. This unit is surrounded by a mixture of public, state and private lands.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: This unit consists primarily of two canyons (Squaw and Papoose) that have been cut by fluvial erosion into an uplifted sedimentary bed composed of the Morrison Formation and Dakota Sandstone. Due to the arid nature of this area, the canyon slopes are composed of exposed rock outcrops and steep talus slopes. Numerous tributary canyons merge juniper with an associated shrub understory of sagebrush, Mormon tea, mountain mahogany, rabbitbrush, cliffrose and bitterbrush. Vegetation is thicker along the canyon floors with a mixture of cottonwood, tamarisk, saltbrush, sedges, rushes and cattails.

Imprints of Man: Within Squaw Canyon, a way exists which is returning to a natural condition through revegetation and erosion. An old fence line, bladed during construction, exists in the Colorado portion of Squaw Canyon. The surrounding pinyon-juniper forest provides screening, making this impairment noticeable only in the immediate vicinity. The unit is primarily natural in character with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

Evaluation of Public Comments: The Colorado office received nine comments concerning their portion of the unit. Four comments agreed with the intensive inventory decision that the unit is substantially natural in character. Five comments disagreed with this determination, four mentioning the presence of ways, chainings, fences and old drill pads. Due to the cumulative effect of these imprints within Papoose Canyon, the boundary is drawn along a bulldozed fence line to exclude chainings and an old drill pad resulting in a deletion of approximately 640 acres. One comment said the farming activity adjacent to the unit affected its naturalness. Outside sights and sounds are not considered during the inventory phase of the wilderness review, but can be taken into account during the study phase. A substantially noticeable way, originally bulldozed from Utah into Colorado, is excluded from the unit by a cherrystem. This imprint is highly visible due to the removal of pinyon/juniper vegetation and erosion from the construction.

The Utah office received five comments stating their portion of the unit was unnatural due to the presence of roads or reseeded areas. These portions of the unit were deleted during the intensive inventory. One comment stated the area was substantially natural in character agreeing with their determination.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: The rugged topography of the steep, winding canyons (Squaw, Papoose) provides topographic screening within this unit. Steep inclines and ledges limit accessibility and the meandering stream course provides natural visual barriers. Vegetative screening is provided by the pinyon/juniper on the canyon slopes and by the riparian growth in the canyon bottom. Outstanding opportunities for solitude are available within this unit due to this combination of vegetative and topographic screening.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Twelve comments concerning solitude in the Colorado portion were received. Six of these stated outstanding opportunities were present agreeing with the intensive inventory decision. Six comments disagreed with this stating the chainings, narrow shape or adjacent farming limited the opportunities for solitude. The chained areas are now outside the unit and no longer affect solitude. The narrow shape which could limit solitude is offset by the winding nature of the canyon and the vegetative screening present along the stream. The adjacent farming activity is considered an outside sight and sound which is not considered during the inventory phase of the wilderness review; they can be taken into account during the study phase.

Concerning solitude in the Utah portion of the unit, four comments were received. Two stated the opportunities were not outstanding but gave no other specifics. One comment again addressed outside sights and sounds. One comment stated that outstanding opportunities were present due to the rugged nature of the canyon and the vegetation which would provide screening.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Some of the primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities available in this unit are hiking, backpacking, hunting, rock climbing, horseback riding and photography. The secluded canyon bottoms make good hiking or riding paths, while the canyon slopes and walls provide more challenging routes for hiking and rock climbing. The rugged and scenic terrain, diverse wildlife and archeological sites enhance the recreation opportunities available here. This unit provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eleven comments were received concerning this factor in the the Colorado or Utah portions of the unit. Six agreed with the intensive inventory stating hiking, horseback riding, camping, birdwatching or photography as the activities possible. Five comments stated outstanding opportunities were not present, but these comments gave no specifics. One Utah comment stated that hiding behind rocks was a form of primitive, unconfined recreation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: The stratigraphy of the Dakota Sandstone and Morrison Formation, as exposed within this unit, reveal the historic geologic processes of portions of the Jurassic and Cretaceous Periods. In addition, the Morrison Formation is rich in fossil plants and vertebrates. Ecologically, this unit serves as a natural refuge for native flora and fauna which have been displaced from surrounding areas by agriculture and other human activity. The rich archeological resource in this unit, including lithic sites, masonry dwellings and food storage structures dating from the Anasazi culture, is another supplemental value.

Evaluation of Public Comments: The Colorado and Utah offices received eleven comments concerning solitude in this unit. Eight comments stated the presence of archeologic, geologic or ecologic values, while three comments stated the area was not unique or outstanding.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

There are only minor imprints of man within this unit that do not require active rehabilitation. Two comments did state that the imprints of man within the unit could not be reclaimed, while two comments said rehabilitation would be possible by natural methods. The areas excluded cannot be reclaimed by natural processes or hand labor in a timely manner.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

This unit is of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. It is primarily natural in character with only minor imprints of man. The rugged and scenic topography of the steep, winding canyons provides for outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. In addition, the area contains geologic, ecologic and archeologic supplemental values. This unit meets all the criteria required of a Wilderness Study Area.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing these concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

Seventeen comments were received (nine, Utah; eight, Colorado) which addressed resource conflicts. Fifteen of these concerned potential mineral values such as coal, oil and gas, and two expressed possible conflict with grazing use. Concerns reported were loss of property from mining claims, restrictions on mining and oil exploration. One commentor expressed concern regarding the effect of a wilderness designation on the economic stability of the southwestern region of Colorado. One commentor explained that designation as a WSA would prevent vandalism. One comment from Utah stated the area does not have abundant water.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Squaw-Papoose Canyons
CO 030 265A

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 27

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 28
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

19 Personal Letters
____ Postcards
6 Public Comments Forms
2 Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

25 Colorado
____ Utah
2 Other

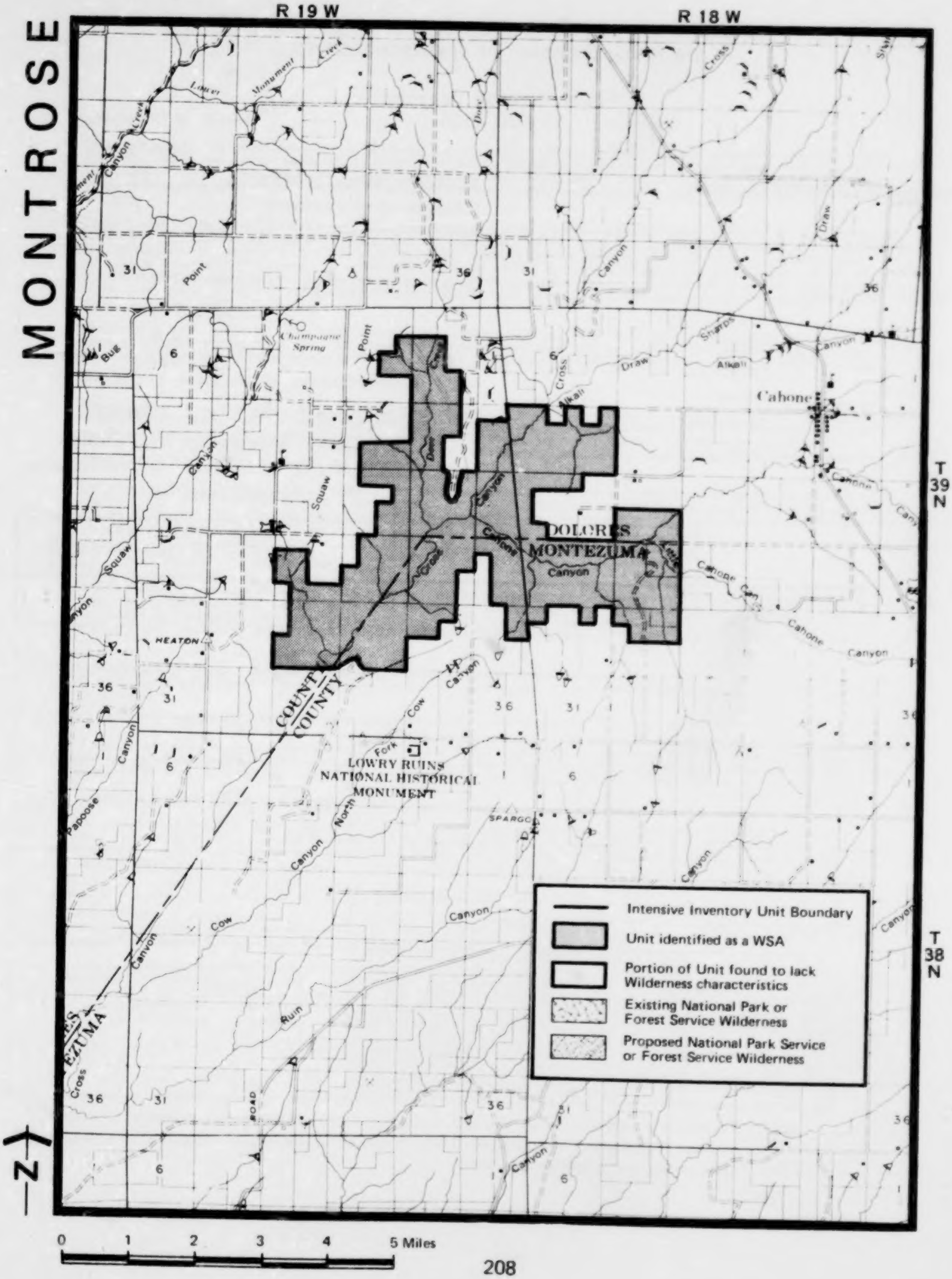
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

13 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
14 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
____ # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	2			1		1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS	1	4		5		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.		1		1		
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	9	9		17		1
	OTHER	1			1		
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	11		2
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	14		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨			

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-030-265D Cahone Canyon


R 19 W
R 18 W
T 39 N
T 38 N
MONTROSE
N
Champagne Spring
Cahone
DOLORES
MONTEZUMA
COUNTY
COUNTY
HEATON
SPARGO
LOWRY RUINS NATIONAL HISTORICAL MONUMENT
Lower Monument Creek
Squaw Canyon
Point
Cross Canyon
Sharps Draw
Alkali Canyon
Cahone Canyon
Cow Canyon
North Fork Cow Canyon
Ruin Canyon
Papoose Canyon
Bug
ROAD
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

CO-030-265D
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

CAHONE CANYON

CO-030-265D

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 8,385 acres intensively inventoried
8,385 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
8,385 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____Yes _X_ No

GENERAL LOCATION: Approximately three miles west of Cahore (Dolores/Montezuma Counties)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: In the initial inventory situation evaluation, this unit was included within the 9,640-acre unit CO-030-265. This large area was recommended for intensive study at this time.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: Public comment received during the comment period (5/79 to 7/79) as well as field studies showed that a portion of Unit CO-030-265 was unnatural due to the presence of imprints of man that resulted from mineral exploration activities. This area was deleted resulting in the division of Unit CO-030-265 into two smaller units--one of which is Unit CO-030-265D. Approximately 80 acres were deleted from the McCloud Point area of Unit CO-030-265D because of the presence of an oil and gas exploratory drilling pad. Approximately 4,800 acres were added to the unit when field checks showed that these lands were primarily natural in character. Following these boundary adjustments, 8,390 acres were identified for intensive inventory.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: Intensive inventory field studies conducted during the summer of 1979 indicated that no further boundary adjustments were necessary. An error of acreage calculations in the initial inventory was found during the intensive inventory. Therefore, only 8,385 acres were proposed as a WSA.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: All land within the unit is public land administered by the BLM. The entire unit is leased for grazing and oil and gas resources. It contains several unpatented mining claims. This unit is surrounded by a mixture of public and private land.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The dominating natural feature of this unit is the confluence of three deep canyons--Cross, Cahone and Dove Creek--that have been cut by fluvial erosion into the Morrison formation and Dakota Sandstone. The steep canyon walls consist of shallow, rocky soils, numerous rock outcrops, and talus slopes. Sandstone cliffs and ledges line the canyon rims. The winding canyon bottoms have a gentle to moderate juniper woodland with a shrub understory. The canyon bottoms support growths of cottonwood, boxelder, Russian olive, willow and tamerisk along with various shrubs.

Imprints of Man: The only imprint of man within the unit are two ways, one on the southern rim of Cahone Canyon, and one on the northern rim. These ways are revegetating and are screened by the surrounding pinyon/juniper woodland. They do not significantly impair the naturalness of the area. This unit is primarily natural in character.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Four comments stated that portions of the unit are not natural due to the presence of mining roads, mine workings, abandoned oil and gas drill sites and ways. No specific locations were given. Previous BLM boundary adjustments have excluded mining and oil and gas activities in this area. Two ways are included in the unit but they do not significantly impair the naturalness of the unit. Two comments stated the unit was natural in character but gave no new or specific information.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: The rugged terrain of the deep, winding canyons with numerous rock outcrops and boulder-strewn slopes provides excellent topographic screening. The dense cover of the pinyon/juniper on the slopes and canyon rims and the riparian growth in the canyon bottoms provides vegetative screening. This combination of vegetative and topographic screening provides outstanding opportunities for solitude in Unit CO-030-265D.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Four comments were received which stated that the unit does provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The rugged terrain and winding canyons were cited as factors contributing to solitude opportunities. Three comments stated that the unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Two comments cited the influence of outside sights and sounds. Outside sights and sounds are not considered during this portion of the wilderness review. One comment noted that the unit's configuration contains narrow "peninsulas" and stated that this would prohibit outstanding opportunities for solitude. Most of this unit consists of winding canyons which even in a narrow configuration can provide solitude opportunities. It is not necessary for the entire unit to provide outstanding opportunities for it to meet this criteria--only a portion of this unit need provide such opportunities.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: The deep, rugged canyons of this unit provide a scenic backdrop for various recreation activities including hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, hunting, photography and sightseeing for the area's geological and archeological features. The canyon bottoms can be used as hiking or riding routes and provide numerous secluded camping spots. The steep canyon slopes and ledges would provide more challenging cross-country hiking or rock climbing opportunities. Hunting is an historical and continuing use of this area. The archeological, geological and scenic values of the area would enhance the recreation opportunities available here. This unit does provide outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined recreation.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Four comments supported BLM's evaluation that the unit does provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, although no new information was provided. One comment stated that the unit did not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation but it did not give any rationale.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: The stratigraphy of the Dakota Sandstone and Morrison Formation, as exposed within this unit, reveal the historic-geologic processes of portions of the Jurassic and Cretaceous Periods. In addition, the Morrison Formation is rich in fossil plants and vertebrates. Ecologically, this unit serves as a natural refuge for native flora and fauna which have been displaced from surrounding areas by agriculture and other human activity. The rich archeological resource in this unit, including lithic sites, masonry dwellings and food storage structures dating from the Anasazi culture, is another supplemental value.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Five comments agreed with BLM's evaluation of supplemental values within the unit. However, no new information was provided.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

There are only minor imprints of man within this unit that do not require active rehabilitation. Two comments stated that the imprints present could be reclaimed.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

This unit is of sufficient size (8,385 acres) to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. It is primarily natural in character with only minor imprints of man. The rugged and scenic topography of the steep, winding canyons provides for outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. In addition, the area contains geological, ecological and archeological supplemental values. This unit meets all the criteria required of a Wilderness Study Area.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

Four comments were received stating that oil, gas or uranium is or has potential of being in the unit. Three comments addressed potential conflicts with maintenance of grazing projects and one comment wished to express support for multiple use. One comment stated that wilderness designation would help protect the rock art which is present in the unit.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Cahone Canyon
CO 030 265D

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 19

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 20
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

17 Personal Letters
Postcards
1 Public Comments Forms
1 Meetings
Phone Calls
Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

17 Colorado
Utah
2 Other

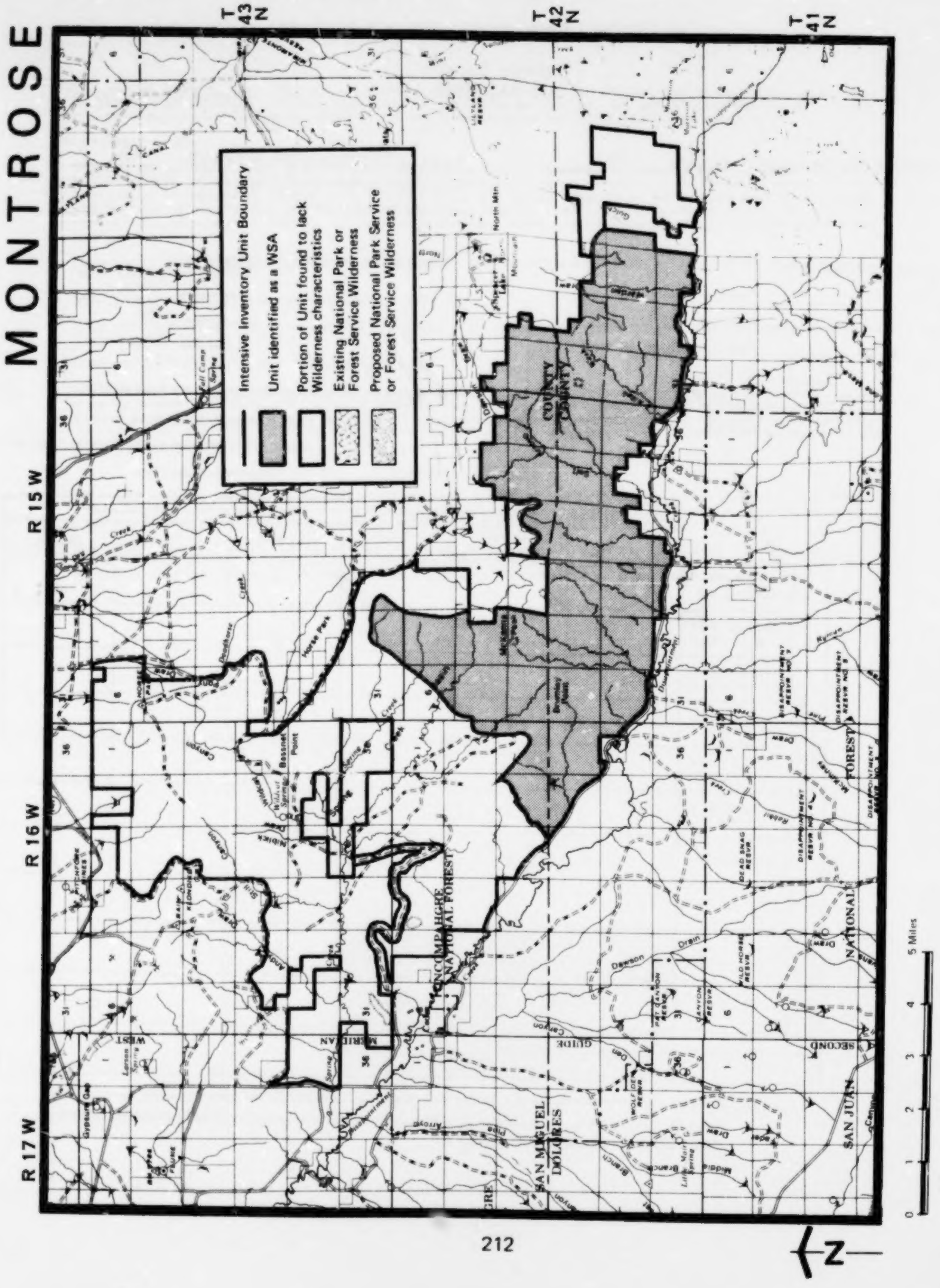
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

12 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
7 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	3			2		1
	INDUSTRY/BUSINESS		3		3		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.		1		1		
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	9	3		11		1
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	10		2
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	7		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨			

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-030-286 McKenna Peak


MONTROSE
R 15 W
R 16 W
R 17 W
T 43 N
T 42 N
T 41 N
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
UNCOMPAHGRE NATIONAL FOREST
SAN MIGUEL
DOLORES
SAN JUAN
NATIONAL FOREST
Bassnet Point
Horse Park
Dawson Draw
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles
N

CO-030-286
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

McKENNA PEAK

CO-030-286

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 44,060 acres intensively inventoried
22,500 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
21,900 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: X Yes ___ No

Additions 480 acres Deletions 1,080 acres
(as result of public comments)

GENERAL LOCATION: Northeast of Dove Creek (San Miguel/Dolores Counties)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: The initial inventory situation evaluation recommended 22,600 acres for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: Several boundary adjustments were made following the public comment period (5/79 to 7/79) and field checks. A total of 21,200 acres of contiguous natural land were added to the unit. After this addition, 44,060 acres were identified for intensive inventory.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: Intensive field inventory conducted during the summer of 1979 resulted in several boundary adjustments. A total of 21,560 acres were omitted within three separate deletions. These areas were deleted because they either lacked naturalness or were of irregular configuration, which limited opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. 22,500 acres were proposed as a WSA following these boundary adjustments.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: The unit consists entirely of public lands and is surrounded by a mixture of private, state and BLM public lands. Portions of the area are leased for oil and gas, and grazing.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The geomorphology of the area is dominated by shale/adobe badlands topography, and includes sandstone cliffs, canyons, and rolling hills. Vegetation varies from desert forbs and grasses to dense coniferous forests.

Imprints of Man: Imprints of man in the McKenna Peak unit are not substantially noticeable and are either mitigated by topographic and vegetative screening, or both. In addition, it should be noted that the cumulative impacts of the ways and range improvements upon the unit's naturalness is negligible because the few imprints present are widely dispersed and do not dominate the landscape. The McKenna Peak unit, then, is primarily natural in character.

Evaluation of Public Comments: A total of three comments were received stating agreement with BLM's determination that the McKenna Peak unit is primarily natural in character. Five comments stated the area did not appear to be in a natural condition. Four of these comments stated the unit contains fences, a corral, a cabin, and stockponds, with one comment citing additionally some past seismic work. Another comment cited the presence of old mines and numerous vehicle ways and a 15-foot wide ditch. Some fences are located within the unit but their presence does not significantly alter the natural appearance of the landscape. The rugged topography tends to screen these fences from sight. The corral and cabin were not specifically identified or delineated but an old homestead cabin was not "proved upon".

The majority of old seismic work has been excluded from the unit due to boundary adjustments made in the northwestern portion of the unit. Any seismic work now found within the unit is substantially unnoticeable and has been rehabilitated by natural processes. Old mines have been excluded from the unit and lie west of this area. An old ditch, built in the early 1900's, is severely eroded and is considered to be a supplemental historical value. In many portions the ditch is revegetated, in some locales with pinyon/juniper vegetation. Vehicle ways within the unit consist of two-wheel tracks located on the periphery of the area. These ways are substantially unnoticeable due to the screening effects of the rugged topography and in the eastern half of the unit, relatively thick stands of pinyon/juniper vegetation. Through boundary adjustments along the periphery of the unit, numerous stock ponds were excluded.

One comment stated that approximately seven sections in the southwestern portion of the unit were primarily natural in character. A field evaluation did find an additional 480 acres of lands in their natural state. However, numerous vehicle ways, a road to a developed spring and fence, and highly evident and non-rehabilitated seismic work precludes any additional lands from recommendation as a portion of the WSA.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: The outstanding opportunities for solitude in the McKenna Peak unit are a function of the topographic and vegetative screening in the area. The badlands near McKenna Peak and Brumley Point contain deep, narrow, twisting arroyos. From high points in the unit, there are expansive vistas which give a feeling of vastness to the area. Dense pinyon/juniper woodland and rock outcrops provide screening in the northern part of Spring Creek Basin.

Evaluation of Public Comments: A total of five comments were received which agreed with BLM's determination that the unit contains outstanding opportunities for solitude. A comment stated the area's relatively large size and topographic diversity enhance the opportunities for solitude. Five comments were received which stated the area does not have outstanding opportunities for solitude. All of these comments cited outside sights and sounds, such as aircraft and vehicle noise on the border roads, as being detrimental to solitude opportunities. Outside sights and sounds are not evaluated during this phase of the wilderness review process.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: The diverse topography of the McKenna Peak unit, including "badlands", steep sandstone cliffs, and gently rolling mesas in combination with varied vegetation, provides for outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities. Some of the recreation activities available in the area include horseback riding, hiking, rock climbing, backpacking, hunting, photography and sightseeing.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Three comments were received which agreed with BLM's determination that the unit contains outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Four comments stated the unit does not contain outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Comments received stated that there was not enough snow for skiing, the terrain was rough and dangerous, there is no drinking water and the danger of flash floods exists. In order to meet the criteria for outstanding opportunities, there need be but one recreation activity offering outstanding opportunities. Aridity is not considered a criteria to exclude an area as not having recreational values. In some instances, danger or challenge enhances primitive recreation opportunities.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: The McKenna Peak unit possesses several supplemental values which enhance its wilderness quality. Much of the area consists of highly eroded, exposed sedimentary strata which illustrates the geologic processes and history of the area. Numerous fossil marine invertebrates can be found in portions of the unit. The McKenna Peak area provides a portion of the habitat for a wild horse herd. The unit contains scenic values due to the unusual geomorphology of the area and the unspoiled scenic vistas of surrounding areas.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Three comments were received which state the unit contains supplemental values. No new information was given. One comment stated the area does not contain supplemental values because the area contains no spectacular beauty or natural water. Supplemental values do not, by themselves, determine if an area contains or does not contain wilderness values.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

The imprints of man within the unit are minor and do not require rehabilitation. Two comments were received addressing rehabilitation. One comment stated that no rehabilitation would be needed within the unit. One comment stated that rehabilitation would be difficult because of flash flooding. Areas excluded cannot be rehabilitated with hand labor or natural processes in a timely manner.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The McKenna Peak unit consists of 21,900 acres of public land which are primarily natural in character. The scenic and diverse topography and vegetation of the unit provide outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. In addition, the unit contains several supplemental values (geologic and ecological) which enhance its wilderness characteristics. The unit meets all the criteria required of a WSA. Because of public comments regarding imprints of man, a total of 1,080 acres were deleted from the unit. One comment stated there was approximately 4,500 acres which could be added as the land was primarily natural in character. After field evaluation, 480 acres were added. The other 4,020 acres were not considered to be natural in appearance.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

Four comments stated the potential of mineral conflicts, in particular, noting the presence of uranium, oil and gas, and metallic minerals. Three comments cited range was a source of potential conflict--specifically mentioning livestock grazing.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

McKenna Peak
CO 030 286

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 22

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 23
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

16 Personal Letters
____ Postcards
5 Public Comments Forms
1 Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

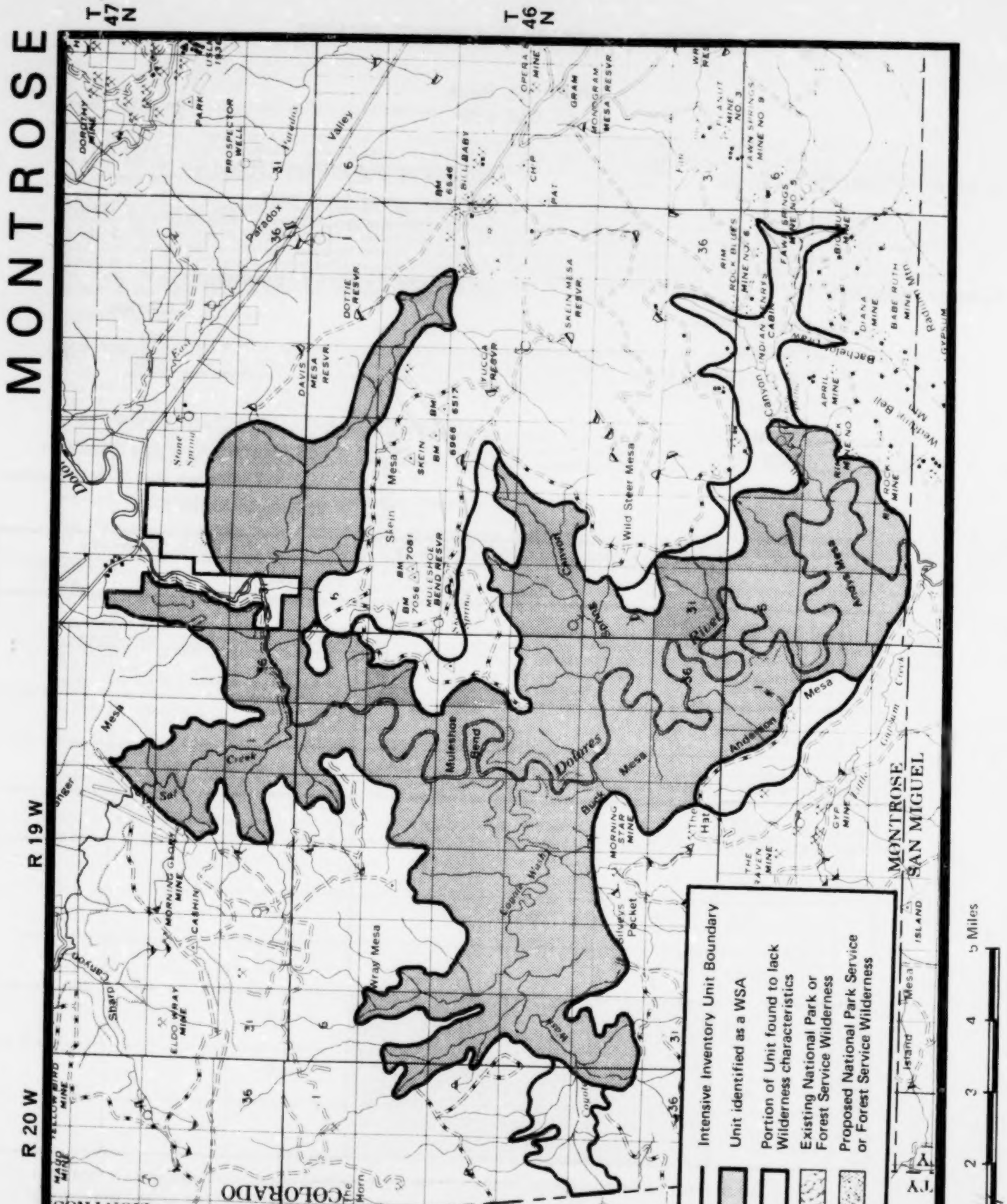
21 Colorado
____ Utah
1 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

13 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
9 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
0 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	3			2		1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		2		2		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	9	7		16		
	OTHER	1			1		
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	12		1
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	9		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨			

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.


MONTROSE
T 47 N
T 46 N
R 19 W
R 20 W
Paradox
Paradox Valley
Skein Mesa
Wild Steer Mesa
Muleshoe Bend
Dolores River
Buck Mesa
Anderson Mesa
Wray Mesa
Coyote Wash
Sharp Canyon
Davis Mesa Resvr
Dottie Resvr
Yucca Resvr
Skein Mesa Resvr
Muleshoe Bend Resvr
Bachelor
Wedding Bell Mtn
Radium Mtn
Gypsum
Island Mesa
Sinbad
Morning Star Mine
Morning Glory Mine
Eldo Wray Mine
Yellow Bird Mine
Dorothy Mine
Prospector Well
Bill Baby
Opera Mine
Monogram Mesa Resvr
Rim Rock Blues Mine
Fawn Springs Mine
Diana Mine
Babe Ruth Mine
April Mine
The Raven Mine
Indian Cabins
Stone Spring
Colorado
Montrose
San Juan
Montrose
San Miguel
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles
N

CO-030-290
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

DOLORES RIVER CANYON

CO-030-290

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 31,585 acres intensively inventoried
29,601 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
25,550 acres identified as a WSA

. Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: X Yes ____ No

Additions 0 acres Deletions 4,051 acres
(as result of public comments)

GENERAL LOCATION: In southwest Colorado, approximately 17 miles west of Naturita and two miles south of State Highway 90 (Montrose/San Miguel Counties)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: The initial inventory situation evaluation recommended 14,280 acres for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 3/31/79: The acreage recommended in the situation evaluation was incorrectly calculated. The correct acreage for the unit should have been 23,065 acres. Public comment received during the comment period (5/79 to 7/79) as well as field studies showed that there were additional lands that were primarily natural in character. Approximately 8,520 acres were added to the unit. Following these boundary adjustments, 31,585 acres were identified for intensive inventory.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: Intensive inventory field studies conducted in the summer of 1979 resulted in the deletion of 1,984 acres due to the presence of a road, ways and imprints resulting from mineral exploration which reduced the naturalness of this portion of the unit. Following this boundary adjustment, 29,601 acres were proposed as a WSA.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: All land within the unit is public land administered by the BLM. The entire unit is leased for oil and gas development and most of the area is leased for grazing. Although no patented mining claims exist within the unit, there are some unpatented mining claims. The unit is surrounded by a mixture of public and private lands.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: This unit centers on the deeply-incised, meandering Dolores River Canyon and includes those tributary canyons and surrounding rimlands that are primarily natural in character. This rugged canyon system is cut down through a series of sedimentary strata resulting in many colorful ledges and massive cliffs interspersed with talus slopes. Approximately 30 miles of the Dolores River are included within the unit. Vegetation varies with terrain and elevation. The rim and mesa area support a pinyon/juniper woodland with occasional sage parks. On the canyon slopes, there is a mixture of desert shrubs such as sagebrush, Morman tea, squawbush, and buffalo berry, and scattered pinyon/juniper, cottonwoods and an occasional ponderosa pine just under the canyon rim. The bottom of the main canyon and some of the tributary canyons support a thicker riparian growth. Some small enclaves of aspen and ponderosa pine are found within the unit.

Imprints of Man: As a result of information from public comment (see below) and further field evaluation, 4,051 acres have been deleted from Unit CO-030-290. The deletions are as follows: (1) In the northern portion of the unit, 501 acres of mesa top and canyon slopes have been deleted due to the presence of two ways which impair the naturalness of that area; (2) Approximately 320 acres of benchland below Skein Mesa have been excluded from the unit due to the presence of ways; (3) In Bull Canyon and along the bench west of and below Wild Steer Mesa, approximately 1,800 acres have been deleted from the unit. This area contained portions of a maintained road which had previously been thought to be a way. It also contained waste rock tailings from mines on the rims above the canyon and other evidence of mining activity; (4) On Buck Mesa and Anderson Mesa, approximately 680 acres have been deleted due to the presence of several ways which are substantially noticeable and which impair the naturalness of the area; and (5) Approximately 750 acres have been deleted from Coyote Wash due to the presence of a constructed and maintained road which was previously thought to be a way.

After these boundary adjustments, imprints of man within the unit consist primarily of ways that are not maintained and which do not significantly impair the naturalness of the unit. Unit CO-030-290 has been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man's work being substantially unnoticeable.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eight comments were received which agreed with BLM's evaluation that the unit is primarily natural in character; however, no new, specific information was given. About 10 of the comments which were received stated that portions of the unit were not natural in character. Seven of these comments mentioned the mining activity on the upper rim of Bull Canyon (above the Entrada formation). These comments cited the waste rock which had been dumped into Bull Canyon and the sights and sounds of the nearby mining activity. Several also referred to the vehicle route in Bull Canyon as a road. The boundary has now been drawn back and excludes those portions of Bull Canyon that have been impacted by the mining activity. However, the affect of the sights and sounds of mining outside the area cannot be considered until the "study" phase of the wilderness review. As a result of further field investigation, the vehicle route in Bull Canyon was determined to be a road and has been excluded from the unit.

Seven of the comments referred to various mine workings and impacts which were outside the unit but visible from limited portions of the unit. As mentioned previously, the effect of outside sights and sounds will be assessed during the study phase. One comment mentioned a road and mine on Peters Knob. The route on Peters Knob was initially constructed but has not been maintained. It is severely eroded, no longer passable, and does not have significant impacts on the naturalness of the unit. There is no active mining on Peters Knob. A small section of bulldozed access near the Knob has been excluded from the unit. One comment mentions a U.S. Geological Survey flight survey marker on Anderson Mesa. This marker consists of a 10-foot pole with a paper "X" at its base. It is screened by dense pinyon/juniper growth and is not a significant imprint of man. One comment cites the presence of a road on the west side of the river near Bedrock. The portions of this route which are used and maintained have been excluded from the unit. A portion that is impassable and substantially unnoticeable has been left within the unit boundary. One comment notes the presence of a road in Coyote Wash. The portion of Coyote Wash containing the road has been excluded. One comment cites cattle grazing as an impact on the naturalness of the unit. Cattle grazing is a compatible use within a wilderness area or area being studied for wilderness. One comment notes the presence of roads on Anderson Mesa. A portion of Anderson/Buck Mesas was excluded to remove those lands substantially impacted by a significantly noticeable way which originally was constructed.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: The deep, narrow and extremely rugged Dolores River Canyon and its tributaries offer extensive topographic screening. The main canyon consists of tortuous meanders with steep, often sheer walls, many rock outcrops, ledges and talus fields with large boulders. Tributary canyons are often narrow, sheer-walled and boulder-choked. On the mesa tops and benches, pinyon/juniper woodland provides vegetative screening. The topographic screening of the rugged terrain and the vegetative screening in certain locales provide outstanding opportunities for solitude within this unit.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Thirteen comments were received which agreed with BLM's determination that the unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. Topographic screening was the most frequently mentioned factor affecting solitude opportunities. Five comments were received which stated that the unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. All of these referred to sights and sounds from mining activity going on outside the unit boundaries. The effect of these outside activities on solitude opportunities within the unit will be assessed during the study phase.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: During the spring runoff, the Dolores River provides a scenic whitewater river run. Throughout the year, the rugged canyon system offers opportunities for challenging cross-country hiking and backpacking, while numerous high cliffs provide outstanding rock climbing opportunities. Other recreation activities available within this unit include hunting, horseback riding, photography and sightseeing for geologic features. The highly scenic canyon system enhances all of the recreation activities available in this area. The Dolores River Canyon unit provides outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined recreation.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Thirteen comments agreed with BLM's finding that the unit does provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The most commonly mentioned recreation activity was rafting. Other activities mentioned were hiking, backpacking, photography, geologic study and rock climbing. Many comments cited the outstanding scenery of the area as a prime factor contributing to the quality of recreation opportunities in the unit. One comment felt the area could not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation due to the presence of mining activity in the vicinity of the unit. Outside sights and sounds will be taken into consideration during the "study" phase of the wilderness review.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: This unit contains a number of supplemental values including: geologic/scenic values associated with the deeply-entrenched, sheer-walled canyons and the exposed sedimentary strata; ecological values including several rare plants; and archeological and paleontological values. These supplemental values enhance the wilderness quality of the area. Included within this unit is the portion of the Dolores River proposed as a "wild" river.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Twelve comments were received which agreed with BLM's determination that the area does provide supplemental values. Outstanding scenery was most frequently mentioned. The exposed geologic structure of the canyon system was also frequently cited as a supplemental value. The riparian ecosystem with its rich bird life was suggested as a supplemental value. Supplemental values mentioned in the comments were previously identified in the field inventory.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

After deletions made to exclude the mine waste and road in Bull Canyon, the road in Coyote Wash and several other noticeable ways, the remainder of the unit is primarily natural in character without need for rehabilitation. Three comments were received which stated that any of the minor imprints of man in the unit could be rehabilitated naturally. Two comments stated there were imprints of man within the unit which could not be reclaimed by natural processes or hand labor. One of these refers to the mine dumps in Bull Canyon which have been excluded from the unit. One does not refer specifically to any imprints of man. Areas excluded cannot be rehabilitated by hand labor or natural processes in a timely manner.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The Dolores River Canyon possesses all of the characteristics required of a WSA. Comments from the public and further field evaluation led to the modification of the boundary and the deletion of 4,051 acres from the unit. The remaining area is primarily natural in character with only a few minor imprints of man. This rugged and highly scenic area provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The area also contains several supplemental values.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

Eight comments stated that the area possesses potential mineral resource values. Two comments expressed concern over possible range conflicts. One comment from the Colorado State Department of Highways requested a ½-mile buffer zone on all state or county roadways for the purpose of highway widening or alteration. One comment compared the value of wildlife and recreation to the value of uranium and dams. One comment reported a need to protect the river area. One commentor felt the area is so outstanding that it should be recommended as a National Park. One commentor wrote the Dolores River could be used for irrigation.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Dolores River Canyon-Coyote Wash
CO 030 290

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 53

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 52
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

41 Personal Letters
1 Postcards
10 Public Comments Forms
1 Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

50 Colorado
____ Utah
3 Other

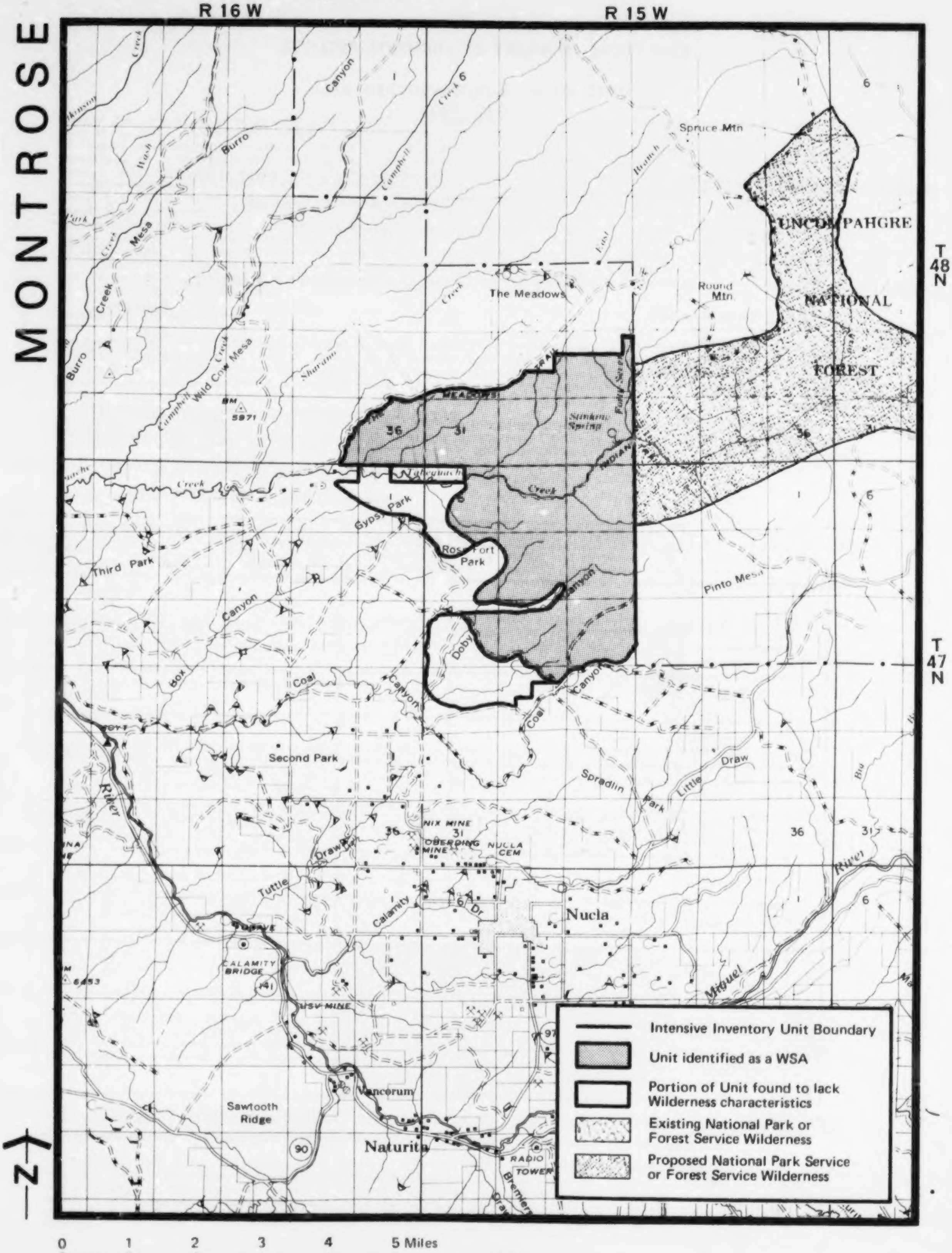
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

36 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
15 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
2 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	5			4		1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		7		7		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.	1		1	2		
	FEDERAL GOVT.	1			1		
	INDIVIDUAL	27	8	1	34		2
	OTHER	2			2		
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	33		3
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	15		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	2		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-030-300 Tabeguache Creek


MONTROSE
R 16 W
R 15 W
T 48 N
T 47 N
UNCOMPAHGRE NATIONAL FOREST
Spruce Mtn
Round Mtn
The Meadows
Sinking Spring
Tabeguache
Creek
Gypsy Park
Rose Fort Park
Third Park
Box Canyon
Coal Canyon
Doby
Pinto Mesa
Second Park
Spradlin Park
Little Draw
Wild Cow Mesa
Burro Creek Mesa
Burro Creek
Campbell Creek
Sharaino
East Branch
BM 5971
NIX MINE
OBERDING MINE
NUCLA CEM
Nucla
Tuttle Draw
Calamity Dr
CALAMITY BRIDGE
141
USV MINE
97
San Miguel River
Vancorum
Sawtooth Ridge
90
Naturita
RADIO TOWER
Bremer
6653
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
N
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

TABEGUACHE CREEK

CO-030-300

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 8,814 acres intensively inventoried
8,814 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
7,270 acres identified as a WSA (adjacent to U.S. Forest Service RARE II Area #242 - 10,240 acres)

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: X Yes ____ No

Additions 0 acres Deletions 1,444 acres
(as result of public comments)

GENERAL LOCATION: Three miles north of Nucla (Montrose County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: The initial inventory situation evaluation recommended 6,160 acres for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: The acreage originally recommended in the situation evaluation was incorrectly calculated. The corrected acreage should have been 5,120 acres. Field checks as well as public comments received between 5/79 and 7/79 resulted in the addition of another 3,794 acres of natural land. 8,814 acres were identified for intensive study following this boundary adjustment.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: Intensive inventory field studies conducted during the summer of 1979 indicated that no further boundary adjustments were necessary. Therefore, 8,814 acres were proposed as a WSA.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: All lands within the unit are public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The entire unit is leased for grazing and portions are leased for oil and gas. There are some unpatented mining claims within the unit. The unit is surrounded by private, Forest Service and BLM-administered lands. During the 2/1/80 proposal, a 160-acre private land inholding was included within the unit. After additional field evaluation, the inholding was excluded by a boundary adjustment because of a road and ditch discovered between private land parcels.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: Centered on Tabeguache Creek and its deep canyon, this unit is characterized by ridges and mesas divided by rough tributary canyons. Except for the riparian zone along Tabeguache Creek, pinyon/juniper woodland is the dominant vegetative cover.

Imprints of Man: Three known ways are found within the unit but all are screened by topography and vegetation and none significantly impair the naturalness of the unit.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Two comments were received which agreed with BLM's determination that the unit is primarily natural in character and influence. Three comments stated the unit was not natural and cited a fence, several ways and outside imprints which adversely affect naturalness. The fence is primarily located in that portion of the unit no longer identified as a WSA. That portion remaining is not significantly noticeable due to topographic and vegetative screening of the pinyon and juniper. The vehicle way between Doby Canyon and Coal Canyon now makes up the boundary on the southwestern border. The vehicle ways south and north of Tabeguache Creek have not received relatively regular and continuous maintenance and, due to the rough topography and relatively thick pinyon/juniper vegetation, these ways are substantially unnoticeable. One comment stated the ways within the unit are unmaintained. One comment stated there are mining and logging roads in the area. These "roads" were determined to be "ways" and were described previously. Outside sights and sounds are not evaluated during this phase of the wilderness inventory.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are available in this unit due to the topographic screening provided by the winding, narrow Tabeguache Creek Canyon and the surrounding rugged benchlands and tributary canyons, which cover most of the area. Opportunities for solitude are enhanced by the contiguous RARE II Area which is a logical extension of the Tabeguache Creek unit, but the unit (on its own) contains outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Evaluation of Public Comments: A total of eight comments were received addressing outstanding opportunities for solitude. Five comments agreed with the BLM's determination that the unit contains outstanding solitude opportunities, primarily citing the winding main canyon with side canyons and relatively thick pinyon/juniper vegetation which screens visitors from one another. Three comments stated the area does not contain outstanding opportunities for solitude. One statement said the 160-acre private inholding limited opportunities for solitude. A boundary adjustment was made because of a road rather than for solitude which now excludes this 160-acre tract of private land. Another comment stated that outside imprints limited opportunities for solitude. Outside sights and sounds are not evaluated during this phase of the wilderness inventory. One comment gave no specific information. No boundary adjustments were made as a result of public comments on solitude opportunities.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: There are a variety of primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities available in Unit CO-030-300. The scenic quality of Tabeguache Canyon, combined with the perennial stream, provide outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking and horseback riding. The benchlands above the canyon offer more challenging travel routes. Hunting, photography and sightseeing for geological features are other recreation opportunities available throughout the unit. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are enhanced by the contiguous RARE II area which contains the upper portion of Tabeguache Creek Canyon and is a natural extension of Unit CO-030-300, but the unit (on its own) contains outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Evaluation of Public Comments: A total of six comments were received addressing outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Five comments agreed with BLM's determination that the unit contains outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. No new information was given. One comment stated the area does not contain outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because planes criss-cross the unit, there are rattlesnakes throughout, and the western boundary follows a well-traveled road. Outside sights and sounds are not evaluated in this phase of the wilderness review process. Rattlesnakes, to some individuals, would add to primitive recreation or supplemental values and are an indication of the naturalness of the area.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: This unit contains geological supplemental values due to the deeply-cut Tabeguache Canyon which has laid bare sedimentary strata covering approximately 100 million years of geologic history. In addition, the area contains educational and scientific values.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Five comments were received stating the unit contains supplemental values. One of these comments cited the presence of archeological values but did not present specific information. One comment was received stating the area does not contain supplemental values; it was of a general nature.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

None of the imprints of man within the unit require active rehabilitation. Two comments addressed rehabilitation. One comment stated that natural revegetation is occurring presently. The other comment made a non-specific remark that the unit does not have rehabilitation potential. The areas of the unit excluded were removed due to a road or a substantially noticeable way which cannot be reclaimed by hand labor or natural processes in a timely manner.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

The Tabeguache Creek unit is of sufficient size to managed as wilderness and is primarily natural in character. The rugged and scenic terrain of Tabeguache Creek Canyon and its surroundings provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation and solitude. The unit meets all the criteria required of a Wilderness Study Area.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

Six comments were received which cited potential conflicts associated with mineral resources, specifically, oil and gas. Two comments cited range as a potential conflict and one commentor felt that grazing is compatible with wilderness. One who commented maintained that administration of this area would be difficult as a wilderness area.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Tabeguache Creek
CO 030 300

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 19

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 20
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

16 Personal Letters
___ Postcards
1 Public Comments Forms
2 Meetings
___ Phone Calls
___ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

18 Colorado
___ Utah
1 Other

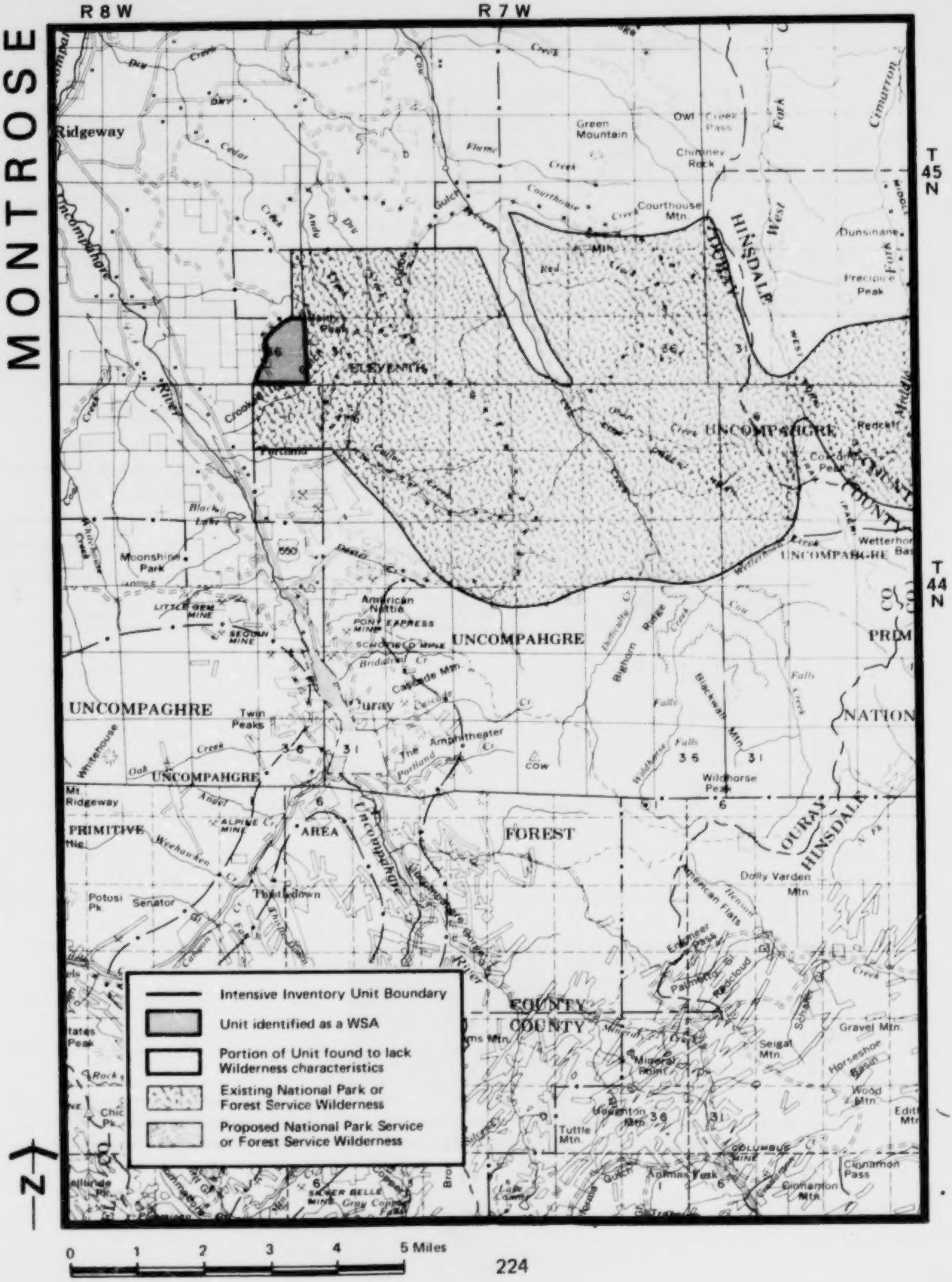
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

11 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
8 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
0 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	3			2		1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		3		3		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.		1		1		
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	8	4		12		
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	10		1
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	8		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨			

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

Baldy Peak Contiguous


R 8 W
R 7 W
T 45 N
T 44 N
MONTROSE
Ridgeway
Green Mountain
Owl Creek Pass
Chimney Rock
Courthouse Mtn.
Dunsinane
Precipice Peak
HINSDALE
OURAY
Baldy Peak
ELEVENTH
Portland
UNCOMPAHGRE
Redcliff
Coxcomb Peak
Wetterhorn Basin
Moonshine Park
Black Lake
550
American Nettie
Pony Express Mine
Little Gem Mine
Uncompahgre
Ouray
Cascade Mtn.
Twin Peaks
Amphitheater
The Portland
Cow
Bighorn Ridge
Blackwall Mtn.
Wildhorse Peak
UNCOMPAGHRE
UNCOMPAHGRE
NATION
PRIM
Mt. Ridgeway
PRIMITIVE
AREA
FOREST
Potosi Pk
Senator
Dolly Varden Mtn.
Mexican Flats
Engineer Pass
Palmetto Gl
Redcloud
Seigal Mtn.
Gravel Mtn.
Horseshoe Basin
Wood Mtn.
Mineral Point
Tuttle Mtn.
Houghton Mtn
Animas Fork
Cinnamon Pass
Cinnamon Mtn
Columbus Mine
Silver Belle Mine
COUNTY
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
N
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

CO-030-332
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

BALDY PEAK CONTIGUOUS

CO-030-332

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 400 acres intensively inventoried
400 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
400 acres identified as a WSA (adjacent to U.S. Forest Service RARE II Area #228 - 10,080 acres)

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____Yes [✓ X No]

GENERAL LOCATION: Five miles north of Ouray (Ouray County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: The initial inventory situation evaluation recommended 360 acres for intensive study.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: Field studies conducted during the public comment period (5/79 to 7/79) showed that a road which was previously thought to exist was, in fact, a trail. Therefore, an additional 40 acres of natural land were added to the unit, resulting in 400 acres being identified for intensive study.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: Intensive inventory field studies conducted during the summer of 1979 indicated that no further boundary adjustments were necessary. Therefore, 400 acres were proposed as a WSA.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: All land within the unit is public land administered by the BLM. The unit is surrounded by a mixture of Forest Service and BLM-managed public lands. The entire unit is leased for grazing.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: This unit consists of the west-facing slope of Baldy Peak. The vegetation is primarily subalpine meadows with some aspen/spruce forests.

Imprints of Man: The only imprint of man within the unit is a short stretch of wooden fence without wire. The area is primarily natural in character.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Seven comments addressed the naturalness of the unit. One comment stated that the unit is too close to Highway 62 and that mining activity has occurred in and near the unit. Six comments were received stating the area is primarily natural in character. These statements were general and gave no new specific information. Field inventory found no evidence of mining activity within the unit. Sights and sounds from man's activity occurring outside the unit are not considered during the inventory phase of the wilderness review.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Unit CO-030-332, by itself, is not large enough to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. However, only in conjunction with the contiguous Forest Service lands which have been recommended for wilderness, the unit could be said to provide such opportunities due to the large area of rugged peaks and canyons, much of which is covered with thick forest.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eight comments were received which supported BLM's finding that the unit does provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. While general in character, some comments noted the large combined acreage of this unit and contiguous Forest Service lands which have been recommended for wilderness designation. The rugged mountainous terrain of this combined area was also noted. One comment stated the unit did not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude due to its proximity to a highway and noise from airplanes overhead. The highway and airplanes are outside sights and sounds which cannot be considered during the inventory phase of the wilderness review.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: On its own, this unit is too small to provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. However, in combination with adjacent Forest Service proposed wilderness lands, the area provides outstanding hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, hunting and other primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eight comments were received addressing outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Of these, seven comments agreed with BLM's determination that the area did provide outstanding recreation opportunities, citing such factors as spectacular scenery, rugged terrain and wildlife especially when the unit is considered in combination with adjacent Forest Service proposed wilderness lands. One comment stated the area did not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude but no specific reasons were given.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: The unit contains no known supplemental values.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Four comments were received stating the area contains supplemental values--mentioning outstanding scenic vistas.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

No portions of the unit require rehabilitation. Three comments stated that any impacts in the unit could be rehabilitated by natural processes. BLM found no imprints of man within the unit which would require rehabilitation.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

Unit CO-030-332, in conjunction with contiguous Forest Service RARE II lands that have been recommended for wilderness, is of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. The rugged and scenic mountain terrain of the unit and contiguous Forest Service lands provide outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The unit meets the criteria required of a Wilderness Study Area only in conjunction with the Forest Service RARE II area.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

One comment stated the area has potential mineral values although none were mentioned specifically. One comment noted there were surface mineral conflicts that could be resolved through land exchange.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Baldy Peak Contiguous
CO 030 332

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 16

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 18
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

12 Personal Letters
___ Postcards
3 Public Comments Forms
1 Meetings
___ Phone Calls
___ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

14 Colorado
___ Utah
2 Other

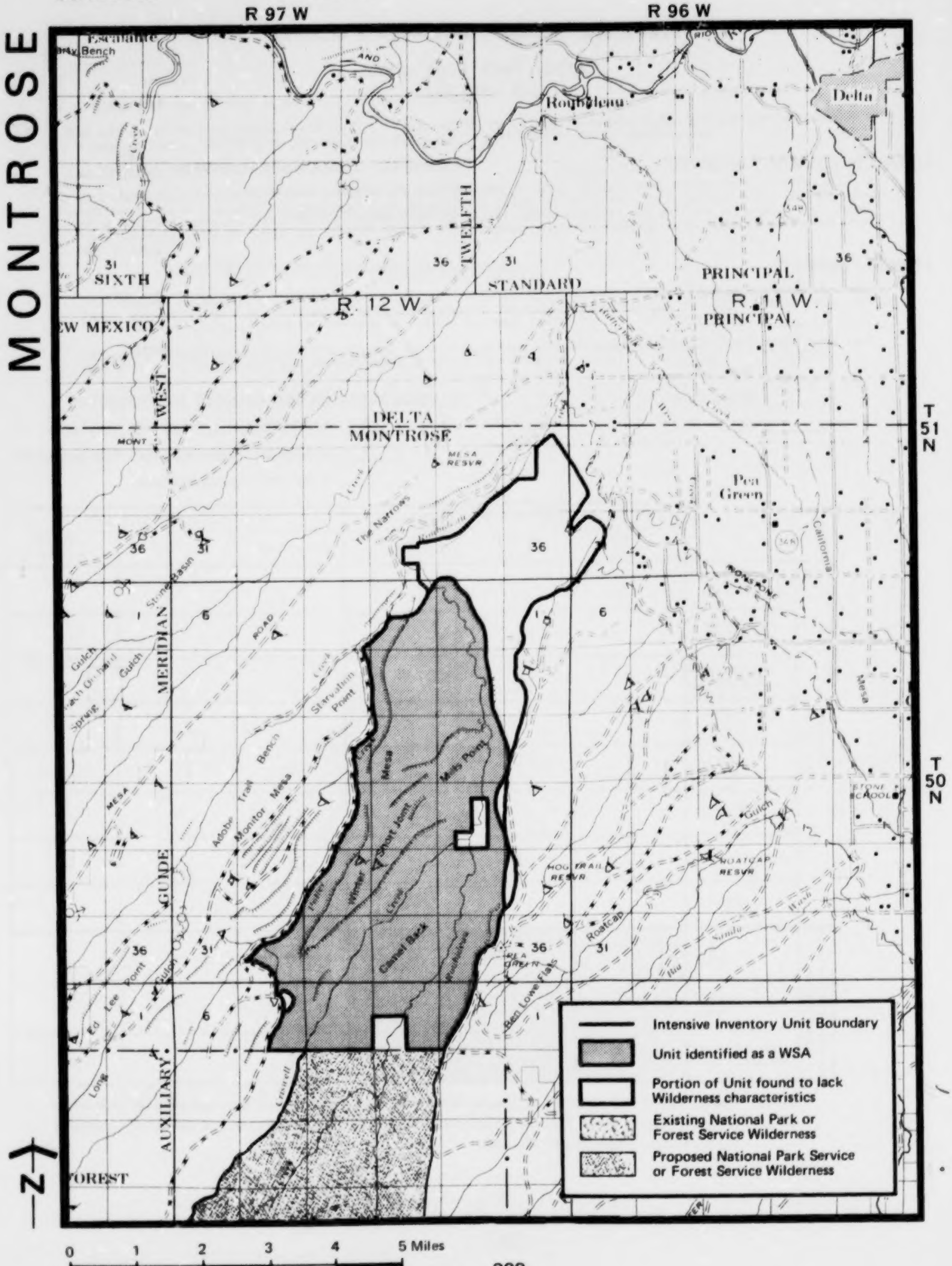
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

14 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP	3			2		1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS						
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.	1		1	2		
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	10	1		10		1
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	12		2
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	1		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	1		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-030-353 Camel Back



MONTROSE
R 97 W
R 96 W
T 51 N
T 50 N
Escalante
Bench
Roubideau
Delta
SIXTH
TWELFTH
STANDARD
PRINCIPAL
R. 12 W.
R. 11 W.
NEW MEXICO
WEST
MERIDIAN
GUIDE
AUXILIARY
DELTA
MONTROSE
MESA RESVR
The Narrows
Pea Green
California
Mesa
Stone Basin
Starvation Point
Adobe Trail Bench
Monitor Mesa
Mesa
Camel Back
HOG TRAIL RESVR
ROATCAP RESVR
Roatcap
STONE SCHOOL
Ben Lowe Flats
Long Ed Lee Point
Gulch
Spring Gulch
FOREST
31
36
6
1
N
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness

CO-030-353
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

CAMEL BACK

CO-030-353

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 13,943 acres intensively inventoried
13,943 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
10,900 acres identified as a WSA (adjacent to U.S. Forest Service RARE II Area #241 - 19,770 acres)

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: X Yes ____ No

Additions 0 acres Deletions 3,043 acres
(as result of public comments)

GENERAL LOCATION: Southwest of Delta (Northwestern Montrose County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: In the initial inventory situation evaluation, 13,600 acres were recommended for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: Field studies conducted during the public comment period (5/79 to 7/79) resulted in several boundary adjustments. Four deletions totaling 657 acres were made as a result of the presence of a contouring furrowing, a chaining, a road, and an area which contained numerous ways--all of which impair the naturalness of the area. Another 1,000 acres were added to the unit when field checks showed that these areas were primarily natural in character. After these boundary adjustments, 13,943 acres were identified for intensive study.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: Intensive inventory field studies conducted during the summer of 1979 indicated that no further boundary adjustments were necessary. Therefore, 13,943 acres were proposed as a WSA.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: Approximately 610 acres of non-public land inholdings (T. 50N., R. 12W., NMPM, Section 23: SE¼NE¼, W½SE¼, and SE¼SW¼) are contained within the unit but are not calculated in the unit's acreage or inventoried for wilderness characteristics. Portions of the unit are leased for grazing. It is surrounded by a mixture of public, private and National Forest lands.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The Camel Back unit is composed of a series of canyons and mesas sculptured by numerous intermittent streams. Its geologic structure is of mesozoic sandstones raised by the Uncompahgre Uplift which constitutes the present Uncompahgre Plateau. Vegetative patterns vary with topography. Along the streams, a riparian zone is apparent, including cottonwood, willow and tamarisk. Along the slopes of the canyon and on the mesas, semi-arid vegetation becomes typical. On top of the mesas and buttes, pinyon pine and juniper dominate the landscape.

Imprints of Man: The unit is primarily affected by the forces of nature with the imprint of man being substantially unnoticeable. The way on Winter Mesa is maintained merely by the passage of vehicles and is returning to a natural condition. Minor imprints can be found in the form of a few stock reservoirs along Winter Mesa Trail, but these do not constitute a substantial impact upon the naturalness of the unit. Old juniper post fences can be found within the unit but are substantially unnoticeable due to color blending and vegetative screening. A mine adit exists on the west side of Roubideau Canyon, but its impact is minimal due to vegetative and topographic screening. Other maintained fences exist within the unit but are substantially unnoticeable.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Three comments were received which agreed with BLM's determination that the unit is primarily natural in character. No new information was given. One comment stated the area is roadless. Five comments stated the area is not natural in appearance. One comment stated there is 1.8 miles of road within the unit. This road was excluded in the Initial Inventory and is not within the unit. Roads in the southern portion of the unit were stated to be grader-maintained. Roads have been excluded in the southern portion of the unit. An old way is within the unit which once provided access for a presently defunct mining exploration activity. These five comments also stated the area contains four old cabin sites, maintained fences, stock ponds, a ditch and a mine shaft. The old cabin sites are in ruin and considered to be of possible historical significance. Maintained fences are permitted within a WSA and are not substantially noticeable. The stock reservoir and ditch are substantially unnoticeable and are permitted within a WSA. The mine shaft, or adit, is abandoned and screened from view by vegetation and topographic features.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Opportunities for solitude in the Camel Back unit are outstanding due to a variety of factors. In the canyons, vegetative and topographic screening produce feelings of intimacy and isolation. Similar effects can be experienced in the thick stands of pinyon/juniper prevalent across the mesas. Where vegetation is sparse, the topography and size of the area promote feelings of solitude.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Six comments were received which agreed with BLM's determination that the unit contains outstanding opportunities for solitude. Seven comments disagreed with BLM's determination stating the unit does not have outstanding opportunities for solitude. These comments stated that outside sights and sounds such as planes flying overhead, vehicular traffic on dirt roads, and the sight of the city of Delta all prevent solitude opportunities from being outstanding. Outside sights and sounds are not evaluated during this phase of the wilderness review process.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: The Camel Back area offers outstanding opportunities for a variety of primitive and unconfined types of recreation. Its diversity of landscape enhances potential recreation activities. The canyons and gulches provide easy-to-moderate cross-country routes for hiking and horseback riding, while the steeper slopes of the mesas offer more challenging opportunities for hiking, as well as rock climbing. Vantage points from the rims of the mesas offer scenic views of the canyons and geological formations within the area providing outstanding opportunities for photography and sightseeing. The canyon streams have produced alluvial deposits that provide excellent secluded camping spots.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Six comments were received which agreed with BLM's determination that the unit provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Three comments stated the area does not contain outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation and gave specific rationale. These comments stated the area is hot and dry and Winter Mesa is without water, is a rough area, with biting flies and gnats, and full of rattlesnakes. Certain primitive recreational activities would not be negated by the presence or absence of these features. To some individuals, danger and challenge and the dominance of nature add to their recreational activities.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: The Camel Back unit possesses several supplemental values such as unique flora, fauna, geological features and expansive vistas.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Four comments were received which stated the unit contains supplemental values. One comment added that the unit is close to large population centers and is easily accessible for all ages. Two comments stated the unit does not have supplemental values. No new information was given.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

No portions of the unit require rehabilitation. Three comments stated the area does contain rehabilitation potential through natural processes. One comment stated generally the area does not have rehabilitation potential. The areas excluded cannot be rehabilitated by natural processes or hand labor in a timely manner.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The Camel Back unit is of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. The rugged terrain of deep canyons and steep-sided mesas provide outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The unit has several supplemental values and is affected primarily by the forces of nature with man's work substantially unnoticeable. This unit meets the criteria for a Wilderness Study Area.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

Two comments were received which stated that minerals such as titanium are a potential conflict. Four comments cited range management as a conflict. One comment felt this area and the adjacent USFS area should be studied simultaneously. Two comments were concerned about the private inholdings in the unit. One comment declared that WSA designation would protect the area from vandalism.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Camel Back
CO 030 353

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 24

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 27
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:
15 Personal Letters
____ Postcards
4 Public Comments Forms
5 Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

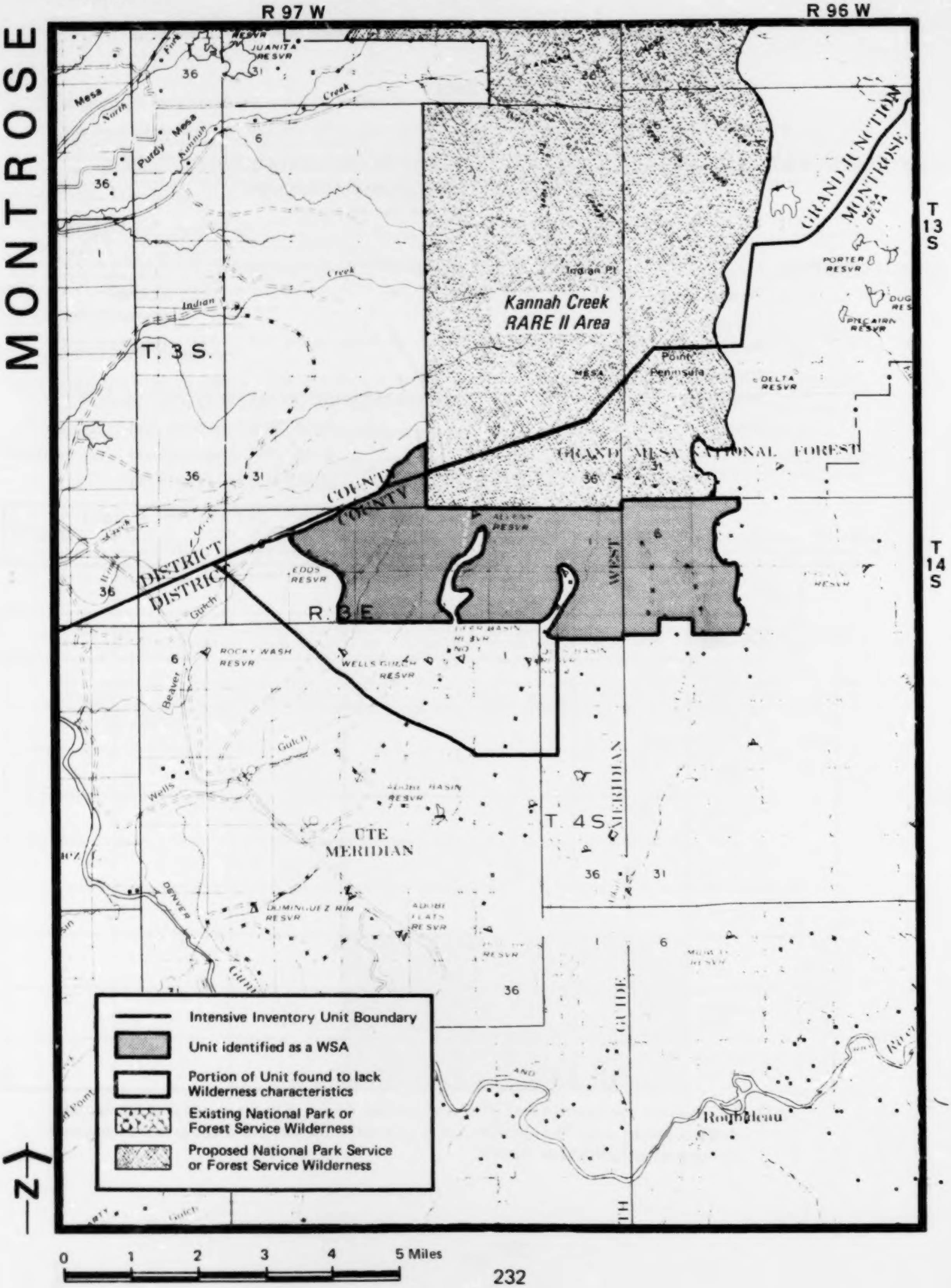
GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:
23 Colorado
____ Utah
1 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:
13 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
11 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
0 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	3			2		1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		1		1		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.		1		1		
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	9	9		18		
	OTHER	1			1		
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	12		1
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	11		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨			

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-030-370A Kannah Creek Contiguous


R 97 W
R 96 W
MONTROSE
T 13 S
T 14 S
T. 3 S.
T. 4 S
R. 3 E.
Kannah Creek RARE II Area
GRAND MESA NATIONAL FOREST
GRAND JUNCTION
MONTROSE
MESA
DELTA
COUNTY
COUNTY
DISTRICT
DISTRICT
UTE MERIDIAN
WEST
MERIDIAN
GUIDE
JUANITA RESVR
PORTER RESVR
PITCAIRN RESVR
DELTA RESVR
EDDS RESVR
ROCKY WASH RESVR
WELLS GULCH RESVR
ADOBE BASIN RESVR
DOMINGUEZ RIM RESVR
ADOBE FLATS RESVR
Indian Pt
Point Peninsula
Purdy Mesa
North
Mesa
Kannah
Creek
Indian
Beaver
Wells
Gulch
DENVER
Roubideau
36
31
6
1
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
N
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

CO-030-370A
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

KANNAH CREEK CONTIGUOUS

CO-030-370A

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualifv as a Wilderness Study Area

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 30,541 acres intensively inventoried (Montrose District - 22,041 acres; Grand Junction District - 8,500 acres)
11,240 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendations (Montrose - 6,640 acres; Grand Junction - 4,600 acres)
6,690 acres identified as a WSA (Montrose - 6,640 acres; Grand Junction - 50 acres)
(adjacent to U.S. Forest Service RARE II Area #195 - 29,650 acres)

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: X Yes ____ No

Additions 50 acres Deletions 0 acres
(as a result of a road separating Unit CO-030-370A from Unit CO-070-103; included is 50 acres of public land within the Grand Junction District)

GENERAL LOCATION: Eight miles northwest of Delta (Mesa/Delta Counties)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: The initial inventory situation evaluation recommended 17,200 acres for intensive inventory. This included public lands administered in both the Grand Junction and Montrose Districts.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: Field checks as well as public comments received between 5/79 and 7/79 resulted in the addition of another 16,002 acres in two separate parcels. Two deletions totaling 44 acres was made to exclude a county maintained road and numerous range improvements. After these boundary adjustments, and a correction in acreage calculations, 30,541 acres were identified for intensive inventory (includes Grand Junction District: 8,500 acres and Montrose District: 22,041 acres).

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: Intensive field inventory conducted during the summer of 1979 resulted in boundary modifications. A road and significant way removed 10,720 acres from Unit CO-030-370A and a new unit CO-030-370B was identified. A total of 5,681 acres within the southern portion of this unit was excluded because of numerous vehicle ways and past National Guard activity. 6,640 acres within the Montrose District and 4,600 acres within the Grand Junction District were proposed as a WSA following these boundary adjustments.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: Kannah Creek consists of public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The U.S. Forest Service Kannah Creek RARE II area consisting of 29,650 acres is contiguous to the BLM Kannah Creek area, forming the northern and northeastern boundary of the unit. The U.S. Forest Service Kannah Creek area was recommended for wilderness designation for RARE II. Roads and private lands form the eastern boundary. The area is covered by oil and gas leases. Grazing also occurs in the unit by BLM permit.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: Kannah Creek is characterized by steep mountain slopes dropping off of Grand Mesa. These slopes are cut by periodic drainages which are separated by numerous mesa-like formations. The upper elevations of the area are characterized by a dense cover of pinyon-juniper trees, while grasses, shrubs and cacti typify the lower area.

Imprints of Man: Imprints of man within the unit include several ways, a couple of fence lines, three small wildlife guzzlers and a way which was initially constructed in parts but is no longer maintained. All of these imprints are considered to be substantially unnoticeable and do not impair the overall naturalness of the area. These imprints are all screened by the dense pinyon-juniper woodland and diverse topography. Overall, the area appears to be primarily natural in character.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Nine comments addressed the naturalness of the unit while five addressed roads. The four comments which stated roads were in the unit provided no maintenance or construction information and a field check revealed no maintenance to satisfy the road criteria. One comment stated that no roads were within the unit. Four comments said that because of the ways, fences and reservoirs in the unit, naturalness was not present. The intensive wilderness inventory determined that, due to the dispersed nature of the imprints and the vegetative screening between them, the unit was substantially natural in character. Four comments supported this position saying some imprints of man were within the unit but were generally unnoticeable. One comment stated that oil and gas drilling was occurring in the unit but this activity is actually outside the WSA boundary. One comment was received which stated a road is found along the Delta/Mesa County line and is maintained. After field evaluation, this access route was determined to be a road which separates CO-030-370A from CO-070-103. The unit includes 50 acres of public land within the Grand Junction District.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Kannah Creek, a relatively small unit, contains fairly open and rolling topography with very little diversity of vegetation. Only in the very northern portion of the unit, adjacent to the Forest Service boundary, does the unit contain relatively thick stands of juniper and pinyon. Only in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service RARE II lands recommended for wilderness designation by the Administration (Kannah Creek, 29,650 acres) would the area be considered to contain outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eight comments were received concerning solitude in the unit. Five comments stated that because of the large area and varying terrain, outstanding opportunities for solitude were present. One comment stated that because of the lack of same, the opportunities were not present. The intensive inventory determined that these factors were present and provided outstanding opportunities for solitude. One comment addressed the idea that outstanding opportunities for solitude were dependent upon the personal viewpoint of the individual and another comment stated solitude would be present because no one would want to go to this place.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation exist in Kannah Creek as a result of the area's size, vegetative patterns and topographic diversity only in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service RARE II area proposed by the Administration for wilderness designation. Hiking, backpacking, hunting, nature study, photography, horseback riding and sightseeing are some of the primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities available in Kannah Creek and the adjacent Forest Service lands. The combination of the above factors provides for outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities in the Kannah Creek area.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eight comments were received which addressed this subject. Four stated that due to topographic diversity of the animal and bird populations present in the area, outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation would be found in the unit. One comment said the lack of wildlife would limit the recreation potential. The area does have a year-long antelope population on its lower elevations and is used by deer and elk during the winter season. These, combined with the small birds and raptors found in the unit, contribute to the primitive recreation potential. Elevation in the unit drops from 8,000 to 5,800 feet with several major and minor drainages descending this elevation change, providing topographic diversity and enhancing primitive recreation opportunities. Two comments addressed the point that lack of water would limit the use of the unit. This factor could reduce use during the summer season but could also allow use during the winter and spring seasons when water is available and other areas are inaccessible. One person stated he would not go to this area to recreate.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: Unit CO-030-370A possesses several supplemental values including geologic interpretive values, cultural and wildlife values, and riparian zones. The area is a big game winter concentration area. Deer and elk are common here and antelope can also be observed in the lower elevations. Also, the area is within easy driving distance of Grand Junction and Montrose.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Five comments were received addressing supplemental values. Two comments stated the wildlife populations were a supplemental value while one comment said the transition zone also contributed. Two letters commented that no supplemental values existed. The unit does contain antelope, deer and elk as well as bird populations and diversity of vegetation (grasses, pinyon-juniper, cottonwood and gambel oak types) which can be considered supplemental values.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

There are no major imprints of man within the unit that would require rehabilitation. Two comments state the imprints of man within the unit could be rehabilitated.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The area is of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation in an unimpaired condition and provides for outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation only in conjunction with the adjacent U.S. Forest Service RARE II area proposed by the Administration for wilderness designation. The unit also contains supplemental values in the form of geologic, cultural and wildlife values, and riparian zones. The unit meets all of the criteria required of a Wilderness Study Area.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

Two comments stated that there were mineral conflicts with wilderness designation and one said there were grazing conflicts. Two comments also addressed the fact that vehicle traffic outside the unit could be seen or heard from much of the unit.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Kannah Creek Contiguous
CO 030 370A

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 29

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 33
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

22 Personal Letters
___ Postcards
6 Public Comments Forms
1 Meetings
___ Phone Calls
___ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

27 Colorado
___ Utah
2 Other

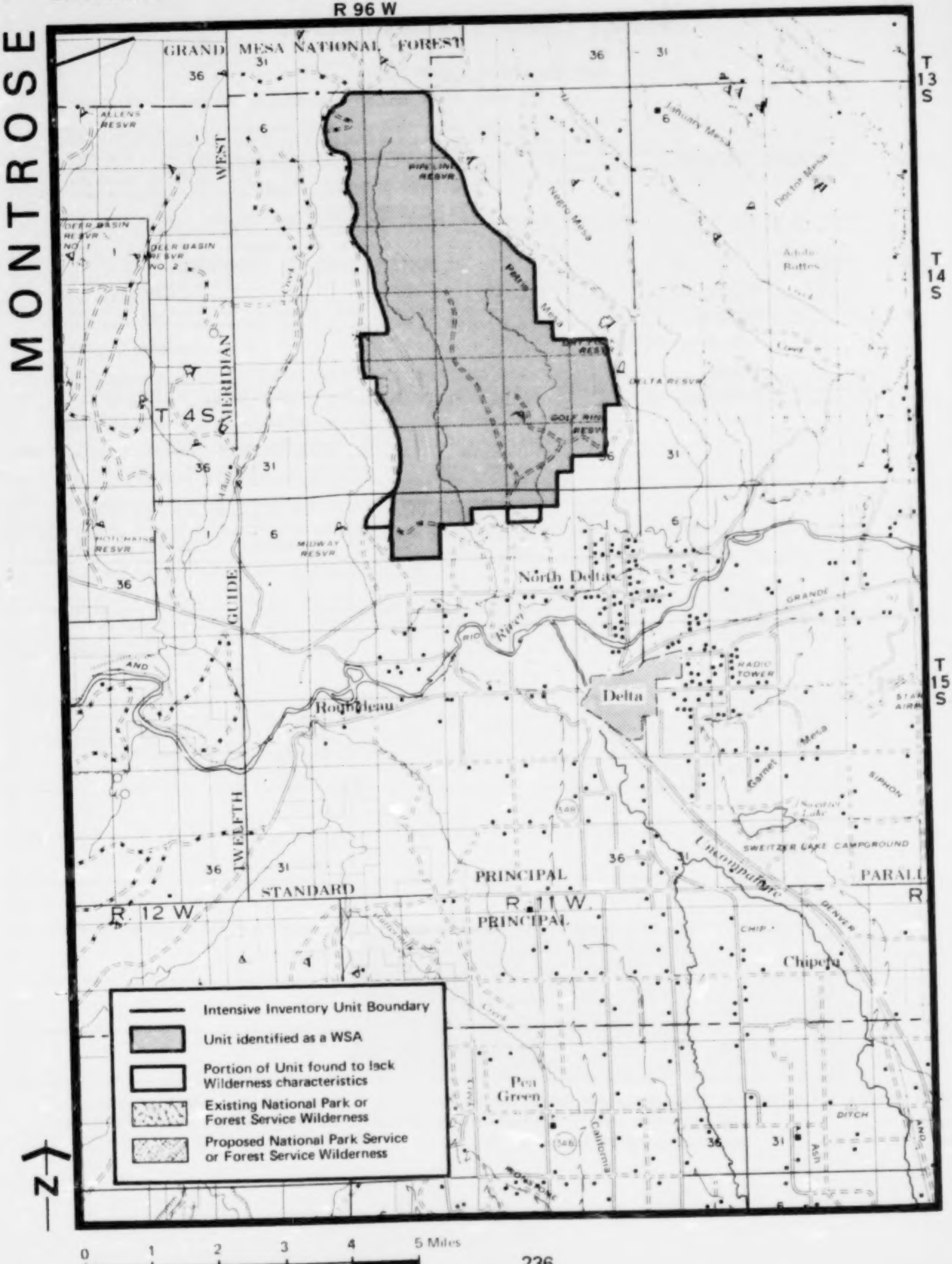
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

16 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
11 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
2 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	3			2		1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		8	1	8		1
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.		1		1		
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	12	2	1	15		
	OTHER				1		
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	15		1
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	10		1
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	2		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-030-370B Adobe Badlands


R 96 W
MONTROSE
GRAND MESA NATIONAL FOREST
T 13 S
T 14 S
T 15 S
T. 4 S.
R. 12 W.
R. 11 W.
WEST MERIDIAN
GUIDE
TWELFTH
STANDARD
PRINCIPAL
PARALL
ALLENS RESVR
DEER BASIN RESVR NO. 1
DEER BASIN RESVR NO. 2
PIPELINE RESVR
DELTA RESVR
GOLF RING RESVR
HOTCHKISS RESVR
MIDWAY RESVR
January Mesa
Doctor Mesa
Negro Mesa
Adobe Buttes
North Delta
RIO GRANDE
River
Delta
RADIO TOWER
Roubideau
Garnet Mesa
SIPHON
Sweitzer Lake
SWEITZER LAKE CAMPGROUND
Uncompahgre
DENVER
Chipeta
Pea Green
California
Ash
DITCH
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
N
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

CO-030-370B
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

ADOBE BADLANDS

CO-030-370B

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 10,720 acres intensively inventoried
10,720 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
10,560 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: X Yes ____ No

Additions 0 acres Deletions 160 acres
(as result of public comment)

GENERAL LOCATION: Adjacent to Grand Mesa National Forest northwest of Delta (Delta County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: During the first part of the initial inventory, this area was part of Unit CO-030-370. The initial inventory situation evaluation did not recommend this unit for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: Field checks made during the public comment period (5/79 to 7/79) found that a portion of Unit CO-030-370 was natural in character. This natural land was added to the eastern side of Unit CO-030-370A (Kannah Creek Contiguous) at this time. After this boundary adjustment, Unit CO-030-370A contained 22,041 acres--all of which were identified for intensive inventory.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: Intensive field inventory conducted during the summer of 1979 indicated the presence of a road that dissected Unit CO-030-370A into two separate units, one of which became Unit CO-030-370B. A total of 10,720 acres were recommended as a WSA for Unit CO-030-370B.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: This unit consists entirely of public lands with no non-public land inholdings. Portions of this unit are leased for grazing and for oil and gas. The unit is surrounded by National Forest, public and non-public lands.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The unit is characterized by a combination of rugged, maize-like adobes of Mancos shale of varying pastel shades of color and relatively steep foothill slopes vegetated in pinyon/juniper.

Imprints of Man: Man's imprints are generally unnoticeable. Some minor impacts in the form of vehicle ways, associated with hunting or grazing activities are substantially unnoticeable. In the vicinity of the Devils Thumb, motorcycle activity has adversely affected the wilderness values. Under natural processes or hand labor, the area could return to its natural condition. The unit appears to retain its primeval character and influence (see "Possibility of Certain Areas Returning to a Natural Condition").

Evaluation of Public Comments: A total of six comments were received which agreed with BLM's determination that the unit is primarily natural in character. No new information was given. Eleven comments stated the unit is not natural in appearance. The majority of these comments stated the unit is covered with motorcycle and off-road vehicle trails. Several comments also stated the naturalness of the unit is adversely affected by surrounding imprints of man including aircraft flights, waste ponds, a hog farm, pipeline and road, jeep road on the western boundary, dairy, dump, sod farm and views of the city of Delta. All of these imprints, with the exception of off-road vehicle use, are outside of the unit boundaries. Outside sights and sounds are not evaluated during this phase of the wilderness review process. As evaluated under "Possibility of Certain Areas Returning to a Natural Condition", areas within this unit that have been adversely affected by off-road vehicle activity could be returned to a natural condition through natural processes.

One comment stated a road is located in T. 14S., R. 96W., Section 4. The boundary now parallels this road and excludes a small corral. This boundary adjustment excludes approximately 80 acres from the unit. A comment stated a road nearly bisects the unit. This route is no more than a two-wheel track, sometimes indistinguishable, and is therefore classified a way which is significantly unnoticeable. There is no evident construction or maintenance. A road was also described in T. 14S., R. 96W., Sections 35, 36 and 20 (it is impossible for a road to "jump" from Sections 35 and 36 to 20). This vehicle route is maintained solely by the passage of vehicles and is determined to be a "way" substantially unnoticeable. No roads were found within the unit. Because of the cumulative affects of vehicle ways, motorcycle use, an old check or stock dam and a maintained fenceline, approximately 80 acres were deleted. No public comments specifically addressed this deletion.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: The unit contains a wide variety and diversity of outstanding opportunities for solitude. The intricate maize-like badlands offer an intimacy which effectively screens visitors from the sights and sounds of one another. In addition, due to the upward sloping topography, the unit offers a feeling of vastness associated with the unobstructed vistas. The pinyon/juniper vegetation also tends to create a screening effect.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Seven comments were received which agreed with BLM's determination that the unit contains outstanding opportunities for solitude. Nine comments stated the unit does not contain outstanding opportunities for solitude with eight of these comments stating that outside sights and sounds preclude opportunities for outstanding solitude. Outside sights and sounds are not evaluated during this phase of the wilderness review process. One comment stated that the area did not contain solitude or inspiration.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: A variety of factors enhance the outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. The unit's relatively large size and topographic diversity add to the recreational opportunities. Some recreation activities available in the area include hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, hunting, photography and nature study.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Six comments were received which agreed with BLM's determination that the unit contains outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Four comments were received which stated the unit does not contain outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. One comment stated there was no opportunity for skiing or mountain climbing. A unit need not contain all recreation opportunities to contain outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. One comment stated there is little wildlife. Antelope are found throughout the unit and deer and elk are located within the norther portion of the unit. One comment stated the area contained no shade and was hot. One comment stated the unit does not contain outstanding opportunities because he would not go there. Hot temperatures, lack of water or shade is not a factor in determining whether outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation are present.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: The unit, due to the unobstructed vistas, is high in scenic quality with views of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre Plateau and San Juan Mountains. In addition, the unit contains outstanding diversity of geologic features and a cactus which is on the "threatened" list.

Evaluation of Public Comments: The unit contains important ecological significance. Eight comments stated the unit contains supplemental values. No new information was given. Three comments stated the unit does not contain supplemental values. These statements were general and stated that this unit would be of interest only to an ecologist or professional.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

A portion of the unit would require rehabilitation. In the vicinity of the Devils Thumb, dirt bike use (motorcycle) has caused severe erosion and the scarring of the landscape. This portion, through natural processes, could be returned to a natural condition after a few seasons if motorcycle use is discontinued. Five comments stated the unit could be rehabilitated through natural processes such as weathering. Four comments stated the area could not be reclaimed as the area has little vegetation, little rainfall and would be extremely costly. Areas requiring rehabilitation are limited in extent and could be rehabilitated by natural processes.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The Adobe Badlands unit is of sufficient size as to be managed for wilderness values and is generally affected by the forces of nature with man's work substantially unnoticeable. The unit, due to the diversity and ruggedness of terrain, contains outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. This unit meets the criteria required for a Wilderness Study Area.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

Four comments stated that mineral exploration and range management would be potential conflicts within this unit. Minerals mentioned were oil and gas. Three comments cited motorized recreation as a potential conflict. Eight comments reported outside sights and sounds as a conflict, such as farms, a water purification site, a dump, an airport and a shooting range.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Adobe Badlands
CO 030 370B

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 29

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 32
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

11 Personal Letters
Postcards
11 Public Comments Forms
6 Meetings
Phone Calls
1 Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

27 Colorado
1 Utah
1 Other

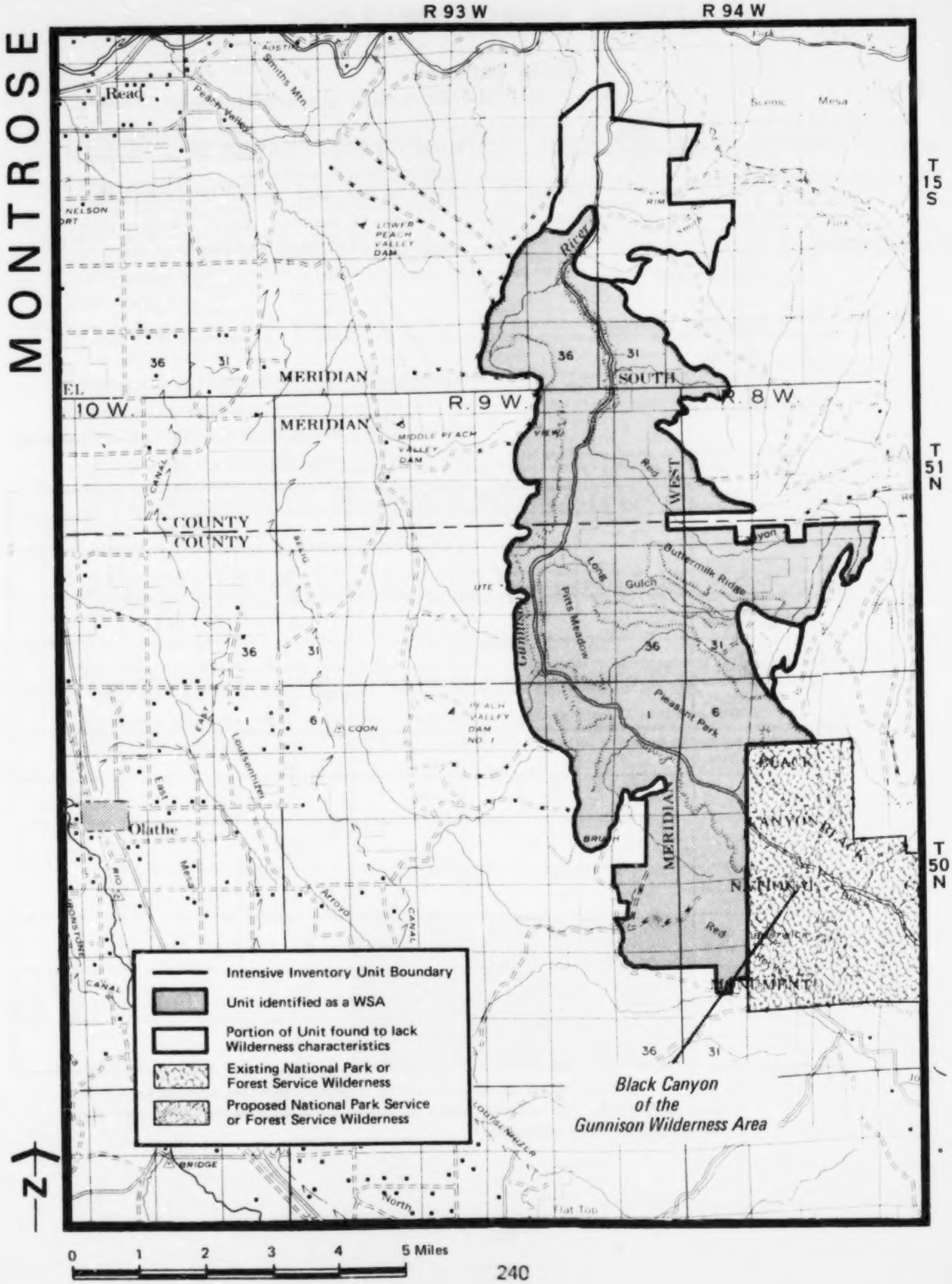
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

13 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
15 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	4			2	1	1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		5	1	6		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.		2		2		
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	8	8		16		
	OTHER	1			1		
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	11	1	1
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	15		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	1		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-030-388 Gunnison Gorge


R 93 W
R 94 W
MONTROSE
T 15 S
T 51 N
T 50 N
Read
Pea Valley
Smiths Mtn
Scenic Mesa
RIM
LOWER PEACH VALLEY DAM
NELSON
River
MERIDIAN
SOUTH
R. 9 W.
R. 8 W.
10 W.
MERIDIAN
MIDDLE PEACH VALLEY DAM
Red
WEST
COUNTY
COUNTY
Canyon
Buttermilk Ridge
Long
Gulch
UTE
Gunnison
Pitts Meadow
36
31
1
6
Pleasant Park
PEACH VALLEY DAM NO. 1
COON
CANAL
EAST
Loutsenhizer
East
Mesa
Olathe
Arroyo
CANAL
BRUSH
MERIDIAN
BLACK
CANYON
NATIONAL
MONUMENT
Red
Flat Top
North
BRIDGE
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness Area
N
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

CO-030-388
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

GUNNISON GORGE

CO-030-388

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 22,280 acres intensively inventoried
21,680 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
19,560 acres identified as a WSA (adjacent to Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness Area - 11,180 acres)

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: X Yes ____ No

Additions 0 acres Deletions 2,080 acres
(as result of public comments)

GENERAL LOCATION: Approximately 10 miles east of Delta and 7 miles north of Montrose (Montrose/Delta Counties)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: The initial inventory situation evaluation recommended 14,080 acres for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: The acreage originally recommended in the situation evaluation was incorrectly calculated. The corrected acreage for the area recommended in the situation evaluation is 14,200 acres. Field checks as well as public comments received between 5/79 and 7/79 resulted in the addition of another 8,080 acres in seven separate parcels. These lands were found to be primarily natural in character. One deletion totaling 5 acres was made to exclude a road and a developed recreation site. After these boundary adjustments, 22,280 acres were identified for intensive inventory.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: Intensive field inventory conducted during the summer of 1979 resulted in two boundary modifications. An area in the northern portion of the unit was deleted (240 acres) due to the presence of several ways. Another 360 acres were omitted in the southeastern part of the unit when a road was found to separate this area from the main body of the unit. 21,680 acres were proposed as a WSA following these boundary modifications.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: All lands within this unit are public lands administered by the BLM. Approximately 17,981 acres within the unit have been withdrawn for the protection of recreation values by the BLM. The southern boundary of the unit is contiguous with existing wilderness in the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument (11,180 acres). It is surrounded by a mixture of public, private and National Park Service lands.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: Unit CO-030-388 consists primarily of the rugged double canyon system known as the Gunnison Gorge. The steep, narrow inner canyon is carved into dark precambrian rock while the wider upper canyon is made up of lighter colored sedimentary strata. About 11 miles of the Gunnison River are contained within the unit and pinyon/juniper trees are the dominant vegetation with a riparian zone along the river.

Imprints of Man: With the exception of one way which requires rehabilitation, those imprints of man which are found within the unit are isolated and minor in the context of the large canyon dominated by the forces of nature. They consist primarily of ways and some past mineral exploration activity in the form of shallow pits and adits. Most are screened from view by topography and vegetation except in their immediate vicinity. The area as a whole is primarily natural in character.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Ten letters were received which stated that portions of this unit were not natural in character. Six comments noted the presence of roads and past mining activity. Specifically mentioned was a route entering the unit from the Smith Fork, an old bulldozed cut near the Ute Trail, and a route in Red Canyon. As a result of public comments and further field evaluation, those portions of the Smith Fork route which contained deep, bulldozed cuts were determined to have a significant impact on the unit's naturalness and have been excluded from the unit. The furthest portions of that route which have received little or no use and are highly eroded and revegetated have been retained within the unit. The bulldozed cut near the Ute Trail was re-evaluated as a result of public comment but was still found to be reclaimable through natural processes and hand labor. It is short and does not impair the naturalness of the surrounding area. That portion of the Red Canyon route within the unit is an unmaintained way that receives little use. It is not substantially noticeable.

For the most part, past mining activity within the unit is very small-scale and dispersed throughout the unit, consisting mostly of shallow pits or adits noticeable only in their immediate vicinity. One exception to this is an area of bulldozer scrapings and gypsum mining located along the excluded portion of the Smith Fork route. This imprint has also been excluded from the unit. Three letters mention the presence of stock reservoirs within the unit without giving locations. One stock reservoir is known to exist within the unit near Buttermilk Ridge. It is small and well-screened by topography and vegetation. It does not have a significant impact on the area's naturalness. Several letters mention the presence of old cabins within the unit as an imprint of man. These cabins are dispersed and unobtrusive. They might be considered an historical supplemental value. Several letters cite imprints of man outside the unit, such as roads, an old airstrip and woodcutting areas, as impairing the area's naturalness. The effect of outside sights and sounds will be assessed during the "study" phase. Two comments stated the river itself was not natural due to the presence of dams upstream. These dams have no effect on the apparent naturalness of the unit. One comment mentioned a vehicle route branching off near the end of the cherry-stemmed Chukar Road. As a result of this comment and further field evaluation, this route was determined to have a significant impact on naturalness, and it was deleted from the unit.

Three comments were received which stated the Smith Fork Route was unnoticeable or "seems never to have existed". As mentioned previously, portions of that route contained deep, bulldozed cuts and received fairly regular use--these portions were excluded. Four comments noted the presence of some minor imprints of man such as the exploration pits, cabins and ways but felt that these were insignificant and screened by the rugged terrain. One comment supported BLM's "primarily natural in character" determination without supplying further information.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are available throughout most of this unit. Topographic screening is the main factor in the deep, narrow inner gorge. The outer gorge, with its rugged terrain and scattered pinyon/juniper woodland provides both vegetative and topographic screening. On the rim areas, it is a dense growth of pinyon/juniper that provides outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Twenty-three comments were received which agreed with BLM's determination that the unit does provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The rugged terrain was most frequently cited as a factor contributing to solitude opportunities. Pinyon/juniper woodland, spectacular vistas and the unit's size were other elements noted as contributing to outstanding opportunities for solitude. Two comments stated the unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Both cited the influence of outside sights and sounds such as farmland, jeep roads, a flight path, and Highway 92. Outside sights and sounds are not evaluated during this phase of the wilderness review.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Unit CO-030-388 provides a number of outstanding primitive recreation opportunities. The clear, cold Gunnison River supports an excellent trout fishery and has a challenging series of rapids which provide for outstanding rafting/kayaking opportunities. Hiking, backpacking and climbing are possible throughout the unit and portions of the area are suitable for horseback riding. The high scenic quality of the colorful double canyon system of Gunnison Gorge enhances all of the recreation opportunities available here.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Thirty-three comments were received which supported BLM's determination that this unit does provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The outstanding fishery of the Gunnison River in Gunnison Gorge was mentioned by most as an outstanding, high-quality recreation opportunity. Other activities noted were hiking, backpacking, whitewater boating, birdwatching, hunting and horseback riding. No new information was provided.

Four comments stated the unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Lack of access to the river for boating and to the unit in general were cited in two comments. Although access to the river is not easy (one mile of steep trail), many people still get boats to the river and float the river through the Gorge. Limited access is not necessarily detrimental to primitive and unconfined types of recreation. Several trails exist within the unit. One comment stated that recreation activities were too "dangerous" because of the rugged terrain. One felt that the area was too brushy. Such factors are not considered in determining whether or not primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities exist in an area. The difficulty of the terrain might enhance the quality of a primitive recreation experience for someone looking for a physical challenge.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: This unit possesses several supplemental values. It provides habitat for several rare and endangered plant and animal species including river otters which were recently reintroduced to the area. It contains one of the highest concentrations of wintering bald eagles in southwestern Colorado and is prime peregrine falcon habitat. The unit is geologically interesting and contains several historical and archeological sites.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Forty-two comments were received supporting BLM's determination that the unit does contain supplemental values although no new information was provided.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

An old bulldozed route near the head of the Ute Trail has left a noticeable cut in the natural slope of the outer canyon. Although it is well-screened by topography and vegetation, its impact upon the naturalness of the unit could be further reduced by hand labor including planting of pinyon/juniper, sage and other local native plants. Four comments stated the imprints of man within this unit could be rehabilitated naturally without giving specific information. Two comments stated that the bulldozer cut near the Ute Trail could be reclaimed by hand labor. Areas excluded could not be rehabilitated by hand labor or natural processes in a timely manner.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The Black Canyon of the Gunnison Contiguous unit is a large area that is primarily natural in character. Two boundary adjustments were made after comments and field evaluation determined certain areas to have substantial imprints of man. The clear, cold Gunnison River which supports an excellent trout fishery, along with the rugged and scenic double canyon of the Gunnison Gorge, provides for outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation and for solitude. The area has outstanding scenic values and possesses several supplemental values. The unit meets all the criteria for a Wilderness Study Area.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

A total of 21 comments addressed non-inventory conflicts. Six of the comments stated the unit had mineral potential, such as gypsum; six said current grazing use should continue; and seven listed the river's potential for water projects. Outside sights and sounds were addressed in two comments and will be considered in the study phase.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Gunnison Gorge
CO 030 388

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 66

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 102
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

47 Personal Letters
2 Postcards
11 Public Comments Forms
6 Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

61 Colorado
2 Utah
3 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

57 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
8 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # No Recommendation Given

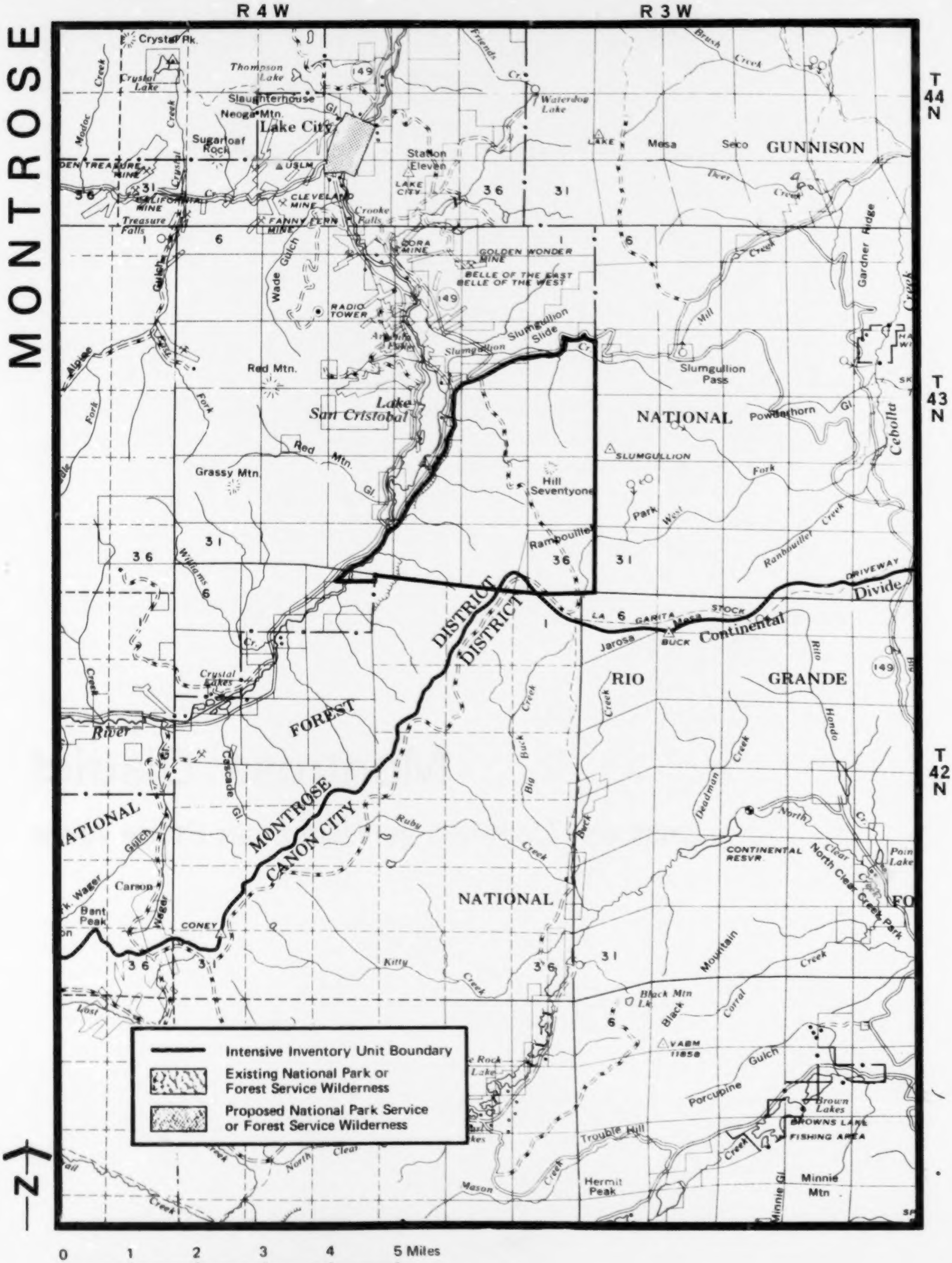
		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	6			4	1	1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS	2	2	1	4	1	
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.	1	2		3		
	STATE GOVT.	1			1		
	FEDERAL GOVT.	1			1		
	INDIVIDUAL	46	4		47		2
	OTHER	1			1		
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA				53	1	3
	AGAINST WSA				7	1	
	NO RECOMMENDATION				1		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

Montrose District

Units not identified as Wilderness Study Areas

CO-030-210 Rambouillet Park


R 4 W
R 3 W
MONTROSE
GUNNISON
T 44 N
T 43 N
T 42 N
Crystal Pk.
Crystal Lake
Thompson Lake
Slaughterhouse
Neoga Mtn.
Lake City
Sugarloaf Rock
USLM
Station Eleven
Waterdog Lake
Mesa
Seco
Brush Creek
Friends Cr.
Modoc Creek
Crystal Creek
GOLDEN TREASURE MINE
CALIFORNIA MINE
CLEVELAND MINE
FANNY FERN MINE
Crooke Falls
Treasure Falls
DORA MINE
GOLDEN WONDER MINE
BELLE OF THE EAST
BELLE OF THE WEST
Wade Gulch
RADIO TOWER
149
Slumgullion Slide
Slumgullion Pass
Red Mtn.
Lake San Cristobal
Alpine Fork
Grassy Mtn.
Red Mtn. Gl.
SLUMGULLION
Hill Seventyone
Rambouillet
Park
West Fork
Rambouillet Creek
Powderhorn Gl.
Cebolla Creek
Gardner Ridge
Mill Creek
Deer Creek
NATIONAL
Williams
Crystal Lakes
River
Cascade Gl.
FOREST
DISTRICT
DISTRICT
MONTROSE
CANON CITY
LA GARITA STOCK DRIVEWAY
Continental Divide
Jarosa Mesa
BUCK
RIO GRANDE
Rito Hondo
Big Buck Creek
Ruby Creek
Deadman Creek
North Clear Creek
CONTINENTAL RESVR.
Clear Cr.
Park
NATIONAL
CONEY
Carson
Bent Peak
Wager Gulch
Kitty Creek
Mountain Creek
Black Mtn Lk
Black Corral
VABM 11858
Porcupine Gulch
Brown Lakes
BROWNS LAKE FISHING AREA
Trouble Hill
Hermit Peak
Minnie Mtn
Minnie Gl
Mason Creek
Lost
36
31
6
1
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
N
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

RAMBOUILLET PARK

CO-030-210

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area and will be released from further wilderness study

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 5,980 acres intensively inventoried
0 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
0 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____Yes _X_ No

GENERAL LOCATION: Adjacent to Gunnison National Forest southeast of Lake City (Hinsdale County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Intensive Inventory 9/78: An accelerated intensive inventory for this unit was completed prior to the initiation of the Bureau-wide inventory because the unit was contained within a Special Project Area. Therefore, no initial inventory was conducted. This intensive inventory unit contained 5,980 acres.

Proposed WSA Decision:
8/31/79: Following the public comment period (5/79 to 7/79) and further field study, 5,980 acres were proposed as a WSA.

2/1/80: Additional intensive field study conducted during the summer of 1979 indicated that several significant imprints of man existed within the area. The presence of a road, several ways and the remains of an old logging operation made the area unnatural in character; therefore, 0 acres were proposed as a WSA.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: The unit consists of public land with no non-public land inholdings. Portions of the unit are leased for grazing. There are no known easements or mining claims within the unit. The unit is surrounded by a mixture of public BLM land, National Forest land and a small section of private land.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The Rambouillet Park unit consists of steep slopes and drainages opening up to large parks in the higher elevations. The unit is about 80 percent forested with over 40 open areas dispersed through the unit. The unit contains a mixture of aspen, fir, spruce and pine. The higher elevations exhibit expanses of alpine tundra.

Imprints of Man: The unit contains a number of major imprints detracting from the naturalness of the area. A vehicular route traversing the unit is substantially noticeable and splits the unit (in the northern portion of the unit, it was determined to be a road, the rest a substantially noticeable way). It receives heavy recreational use and constitutes a high impact upon the naturalness of the area. The cumulative effect of a number of imprints associated with old logging practices found in the Sawmill Park area and a small section near the northern boundary also creates a major impact upon the unit's naturalness. The unit contains major imprints of man that are substantially noticeable. It does not meet naturalness criteria for a Wilderness Study Area.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Two comments addressed the naturalness of the unit. One comment simply stated the area was untrammeled by man. Only a portion is untrammeled by man and this would be well under 5,000 acres in size. One comment substantiated the BLM's findings regarding the lack of naturalness and stated a road bisected the unit. It was determined that half of the vehicle route was a road and half a way; however, the way was substantially noticeable and adversely affected the natural appearance of the area.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Most of the unit contains dense forests interspersed with small open areas. This vegetative screening, combined with the topographic screening provided by steep drainages in the western portion of the unit, creates outstanding opportunities for solitude. Solitude would be hindered near the vehicular route traversing the unit.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Four comments were received which stated the area's topography and vegetative screening provided outstanding opportunities for solitude. One comment stated the presence of Lake San Cristobal and its motorized boat use precluded any attempt at solitude. Outside sights and sounds are not considered in this phase of the wilderness inventory.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Due to the varied topography, including high mountain parks and steep drainages and the diverse vegetation of the subalpine forests and alpine tundra, the unit offers opportunities for a number of different activities. The area provides outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, hunting, horseback riding, mountain climbing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, photography and sightseeing.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Two comments agreed with the BLM's determination that the unit contains outstanding primitive recreation opportunities. No comments were received which stated otherwise.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: The unit has a scenic supplemental value offering vistas of Uncompahgre Peak and the Wetterhorn area.

Evaluation of Public Comments: No comments were received addressing supplemental values.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

Major imprints within the area will not return to a natural condition without mechanical manipulation. Vehicle ways and skid trails associated with past logging operations have a high impact upon the unit's naturalness. The old road cuts and swaths cut through the timber could not be rehabilitated by hand labor or natural processes within a reasonable length of time. One comment was received stating reclamation could occur in Rambouillet Park but no specific data or imprint of man was cited.

RATIONALE FOR NOT IDENTIFYING THIS UNIT AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

This unit meets the size requirement for a WSA. Its forest vegetation and open parks provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. However, a number of substantially noticeable imprints of man can be found within the unit. A vehicle route constituting a high impact upon the naturalness of the unit traverses the area and cuts the unit in half. Another imprint associated with old logging practices constitutes a noticeable impairment to the naturalness of the unit. These areas could not be returned to a natural condition without mechanical manipulation. The Rambouillet Park unit is not recommended for a Wilderness Study Area due to the major imprints of man which impair the naturalness of the area.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. Since this area has not been identified as a WSA, comments addressing these concerns will be utilized by BLM in future land-use planning.

Two comments stated that potential mineral resources could likely be found within the unit. One comment cited outside sights and sounds as a reason the area should not become a WSA.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Rambouillet Park
CO 030 210

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 9

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 9
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:
7 Personal Letters
___ Postcards
1 Public Comments Forms
1 Meetings
___ Phone Calls
___ Other

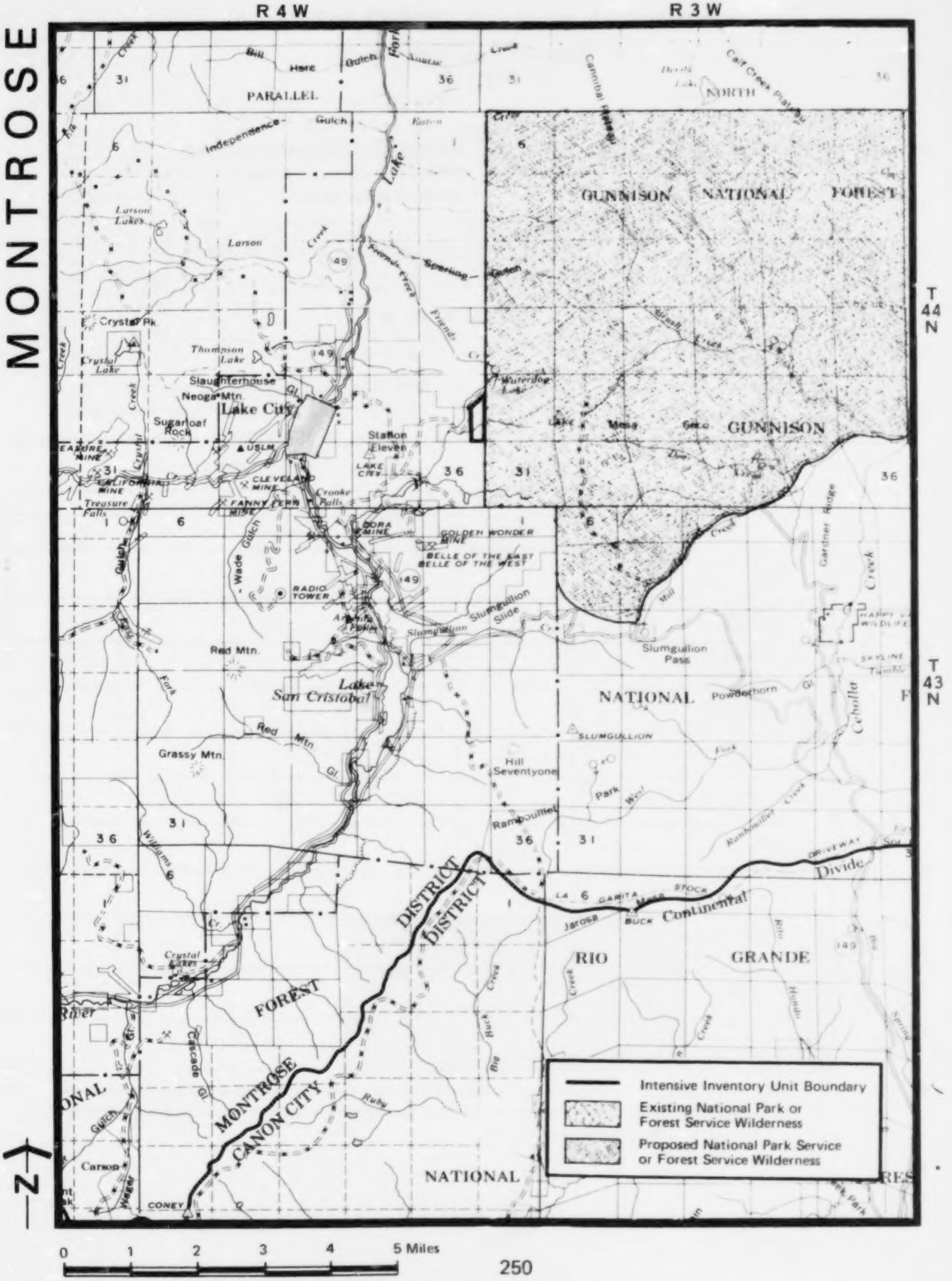
GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:
8 Colorado
0 Utah
1 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:
4 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
4 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.						
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		1		1		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.			1	1		
	INDIVIDUAL	3	3		6		
	OTHER	1					1
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	3		1
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	4		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	1		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-030-212 Waterdog Lake


R 4 W
R 3 W
MONTROSE
T 44 N
T 43 N
PARALLEL
NORTH
GUNNISON NATIONAL FOREST
GUNNISON
Independence Gulch
Larson Lakes
Larson
Crystal Pk.
Crystal Lake
Thompson Lake
Slaughterhouse
Neoga Mtn.
Lake City
Sugarloaf Rock
USLM
Waterdog Lake
Station Eleven
LAKE CITY
CLEVELAND MINE
CALIFORNIA MINE
FANNY FERN MINE
Treasure Falls
Crooke Falls
DORA MINE
GOLDEN WONDER MINE
BELLE OF THE EAST
BELLE OF THE WEST
Wade Gulch
RADIO TOWER
Slumgullion Slide
Slumgullion Pass
Red Mtn.
Lake San Cristobal
Red Mtn Gl
Grassy Mtn.
SLUMGULLION
Hill Seventyone
Rambouillet
Powderhorn
Cebolla Creek
Gardner Ridge
NATIONAL
Continental Divide
Jarosa
BUCK
RIO GRANDE
FOREST
DISTRICT
MONTROSE
CANON CITY
Crystal Lakes
Cascade Gl
Carson
CONEY
NATIONAL
149
49
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
N
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

CO-030-212
Area Not Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

WATERDOG LAKE

CO-030-212

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 80 acres intensively inventoried
0 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
0 acres identified as a WSA (adjacent to U.S. Forest Service RARE II Area #218 - 31,990 acres)

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____Yes X No

GENERAL LOCATION: Adjacent to Gunnison National Forest, east of Lake City (Hinsdale County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Intensive Inventory 8/78: An accelerated intensive inventory for this unit was completed prior to the initiation of the Bureau-wide inventory because the unit was contained within a Special Project Area. Therefore, no initial inventory was conducted. This intensive inventory unit contained 80 acres.

Proposed WSA Decision:
8/31/79: Following the public comment period (5/79 to 7/79) and further intensive field study, 80 acres were proposed as a WSA.

2/1/80: Additional field study conducted during the summer of 1979 indicated that the area was not natural due to the presence of a way and the stumps from an old timber harvest. Due to this unnatural condition, 0 acres were proposed as a WSA.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: The unit contains public land administered by the BLM. There are no known leases, easements or mining claims within the unit. It is surrounded by a mixture of public (BLM), private and Forest Service lands. The unit is adjacent to a USFS RARE II Area (#218, 31,990 acres) recommended for further wilderness study.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The Waterdog Lake unit includes part of the western slope of the Cannibal Plateau. The unit has a 600-foot elevation gain with the peak elevation at 11,000 feet. It is forested with spruce, fir and aspen. Small parks of annual and perennial grasses are scattered throughout the unit.

Imprints of Man: There are only a few imprints of man within the unit. However, due to its small size, these imprints substantially affect the naturalness of the unit. The area has been logged in the past and stumps are visible throughout the unit. It has revegetated, but the cut is still noticeable. A short (approximately two-tenths of a mile) way parallels a drainage in the southern part of the unit, but it has revegetated and is substantially unnoticeable. Overall, the unit does not meet the naturalness criteria required of a WSA.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Only one comment was received stating the unit is natural and untrammeled by man. The BLM's determination is that the entire unit is trammeled by man as all 80 acres have been logged. One comment stated the unit was roadless which substantiates BLM's findings.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: The area by itself does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude because of limited acreage and due to the extensive logging. However, when combined with adjacent Forest Service RARE II lands (a combined acreage of 32,000 plus acres), outstanding opportunities for solitude would exist because of the rugged topography and diversity of vegetative types at the higher elevations.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Three comments were received stating the unit contains outstanding opportunities for solitude. One noted the ruggedness of the terrain, while the others made a general statement that the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude. No comments were received stating the unit does not contain outstanding solitude opportunities.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: The area by itself does not provide outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. However, it is contiguous with, and a natural extension of, USFS RARE II Area #218 (recommended for further wilderness study) which contains rugged mountain terrain and lakes and streams. This combined area would provide diverse outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, such as hiking, photography, backpacking and cross-country skiing.

Evaluation of Public Comments: One comment made a general statement supporting BLM's determination that the unit contains outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. No comments were received stating otherwise.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: No known supplemental values were found within the unit.

Evaluation of Public Comments: No comments addressing these values were received.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

It would require the removal of stumps by mechanical means for the timber cut to return to a natural condition. No comments addressed the reclamation potential of the unit.

RATIONALE FOR NOT IDENTIFYING THIS UNIT AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The unit is contiguous with the U.S. Forest Service RARE II Area #218 (31,990 acres), thus meeting the size criteria for a Wilderness Study Area. In conjunction with this RARE II area, which contains a large acreage of rugged mountain terrain, the unit would provide outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. However, the unit contains major imprints of man and does not meet naturalness criteria. The entire area has been logged in the past and, though it has revegetated, the cut is still evident. The Waterdog Lake unit is not recommended as a Wilderness Study Area due to the impact of timber cut upon the naturalness of the unit.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. Since this area has not been identified as a WSA, comments addressing these concerns will be utilized by BLM in future land-use planning.

No comments were received addressing non-inventory information.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Waterdog Lake
CO 030 212

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 5

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 8
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

5 Personal Letters
____ Postcards
____ Public Comments Forms
____ Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

5 Colorado
____ Utah
____ Other

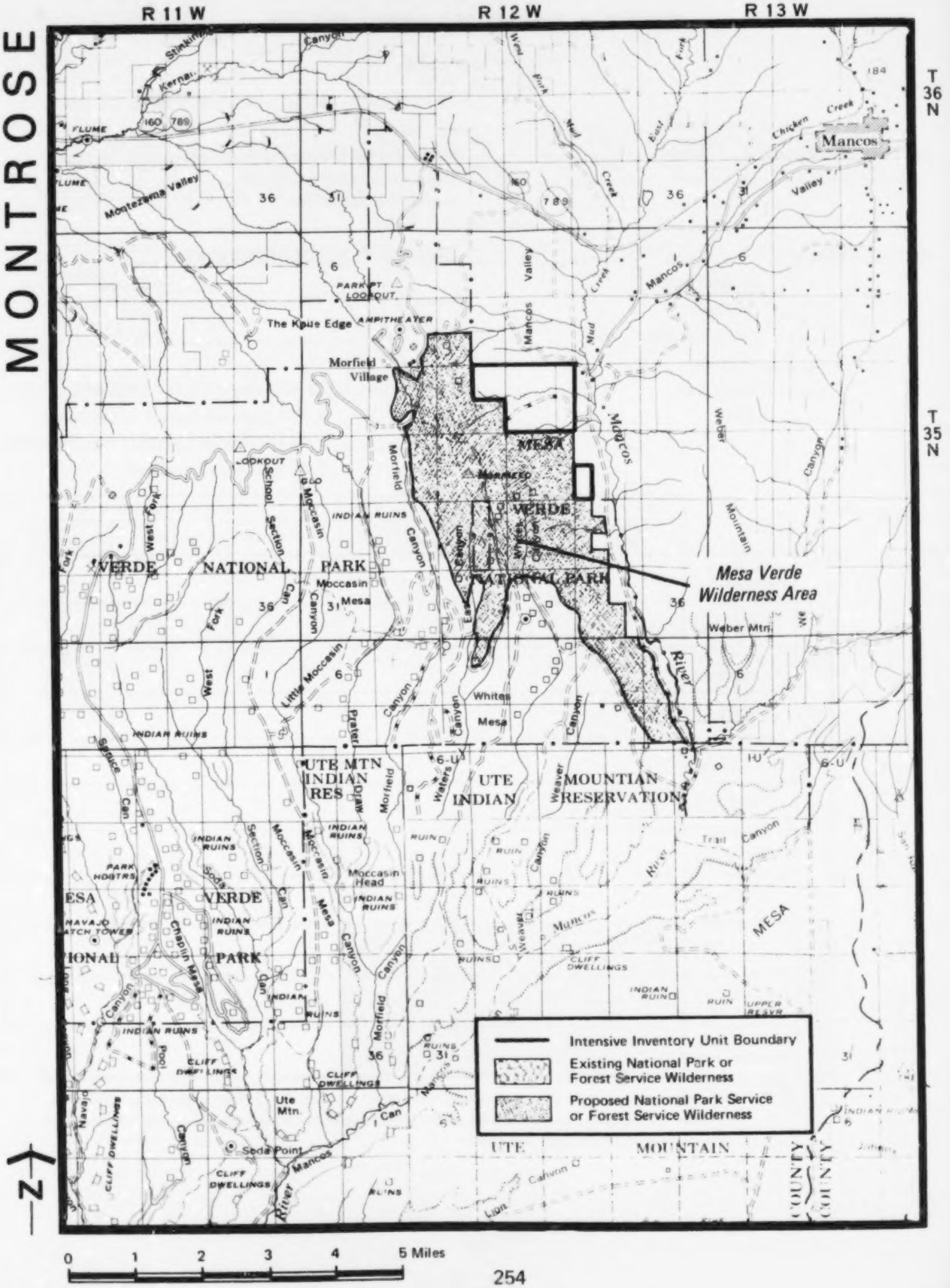
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

5 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
____ # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
____ # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.						
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS						
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	5			5		
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	5		
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨			
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨			

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-030-253 Mesa Verde Contiguous


R 11 W
R 12 W
R 13 W
T 36 N
T 35 N
Mancos
Morfield Village
The Knife Edge
MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK
UTE MTN INDIAN RES
UTE INDIAN MOUNTIAN RESERVATION
Mesa Verde Wilderness Area
Weber Mtn.
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
N
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

CO-030-253
Area Not Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

MESA VERDE CONTIGUOUS

CO-030-253

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area and will be released from further wilderness study

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 720 acres intensively inventoried
0 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
0 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____Yes __X__No

GENERAL LOCATION: Adjacent to Mesa Verde National Park southwest of Mancos (Montezuma County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: In the initial inventory situation evaluation, this 720-acre unit was not recommended for intensive inventory. This area was composed of two separate units: the larger contained 640 acres, the smaller unit contained 80 acres.

Final Initial Inventory Decision:
8/31/79: Following the public comment period (5/79 to 7/79) and field checks, the unit was not identified for intensive inventory.

10/15/79: After a 45-day protest period, a formal protest was received stating that the area should be added back into the intensive inventory.

12/13/79: A Federal Register notice formally identified 720 acres for intensive inventory.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: Intensive inventory field studies conducted during the summer of 1979 indicated that a substantially noticeable fire break constructed through a dense pinyon/juniper woodland separated this area from Mesa Verde National Park. It was also found that this area was impacted by numerous imprints of man. The unit also lacked sufficient size as well as outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. As a result of these findings, 0 acres were proposed as a WSA.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: The unit consists of public land with no non-public land inholdings. Portions of the unit are leased for grazing. The unit, originally thought contiguous to designated Mesa Verde wilderness administered by the Park Service was found to be separated by large, bulldozed firebreaks along the Park Service/public lands boundaries. The remainder of the unit is surrounded by private lands.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The Mesa Verde unit is characterized by steep, rugged slopes heavily vegetated in pinyon/juniper.

Imprints of Man: Within the unit are numerous vehicle ways including several which provide access to the large, substantially noticeable bulldozed firebreaks separating the Park Service lands from the Bureau lands. The unit does not meet naturalness criteria for a Wilderness Study Area.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Two comments were received which stated the area appeared to be natural in character. One comment did not give any specific information. The other comment stated their investigator could find no bulldozed firebreaks and that the two vehicle ways in the unit were unnoticeable. Bulldozed firebreaks do effectively isolate this unit from the Park Service lands. Photo documentation of these ways and firebreaks is available in the Permanent Documentation Files in the District and State BLM Offices. In addition, numerous ways cut through the pinyon/juniper vegetation penetrating this unit. These bulldozed firebreaks separate the unit from Mesa Verde National Park Wilderness and the numerous vehicle ways and their scars are substantially noticeable. One general, non-specific comment was received stating the unit is roadless, which is in agreement with BLM's determination.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Due to the unit's relatively small size and segregation from adjacent Park Service wilderness, the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Two comments were received stating the unit contains outstanding opportunities for solitude. One comment stated that dense vegetative cover enhances solitude opportunities. It is the BLM's determination that this unit is not contiguous to Mesa Verde National Park and the unit is not large enough to contain outstanding opportunities for solitude.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Due to the unit's relatively small size and segregation from adjacent Park Service wilderness, the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Evaluation of Public Comments: No comments addressing these values were received.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: The unit offers educational, scientific and historical values in the form of archeological resources. Due to the surrounding lands, the area also offers high scenic values.

Evaluation of Public Comments: One comment was received which stated the unit was rugged and beautiful. No comments were received stating the area did not contain supplemental values.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

Major imprints, such as the bulldozed firebreaks, will not return to a natural condition without mechanical manipulation. In addition, the numerous ways traversing through pinyon/juniper vegetation could not be rehabilitated by hand labor or natural processes within a reasonable length of time. No comments addressed the reclamation potential of the unit.

RATIONALE FOR NOT IDENTIFYING THIS UNIT AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

Unit CO-030-253, due to the substantially noticeable bulldozed firebreaks and numerous vehicle ways, is neither of sufficient size as to be practical as wilderness nor does the area retain its primeval character and influence. Due to its relatively small size, the area does not contain outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. Since this area has not been identified as a WSA, comments addressing these concerns will be utilized by BLM in future land-use planning.

No comments were received addressing non-inventory information.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Mesa Verde Contiguous
CO 030 253

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 3

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 3
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

3 Personal Letters
____ Postcards
____ Public Comments Forms
____ Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

2 Colorado
____ Utah
1 Other

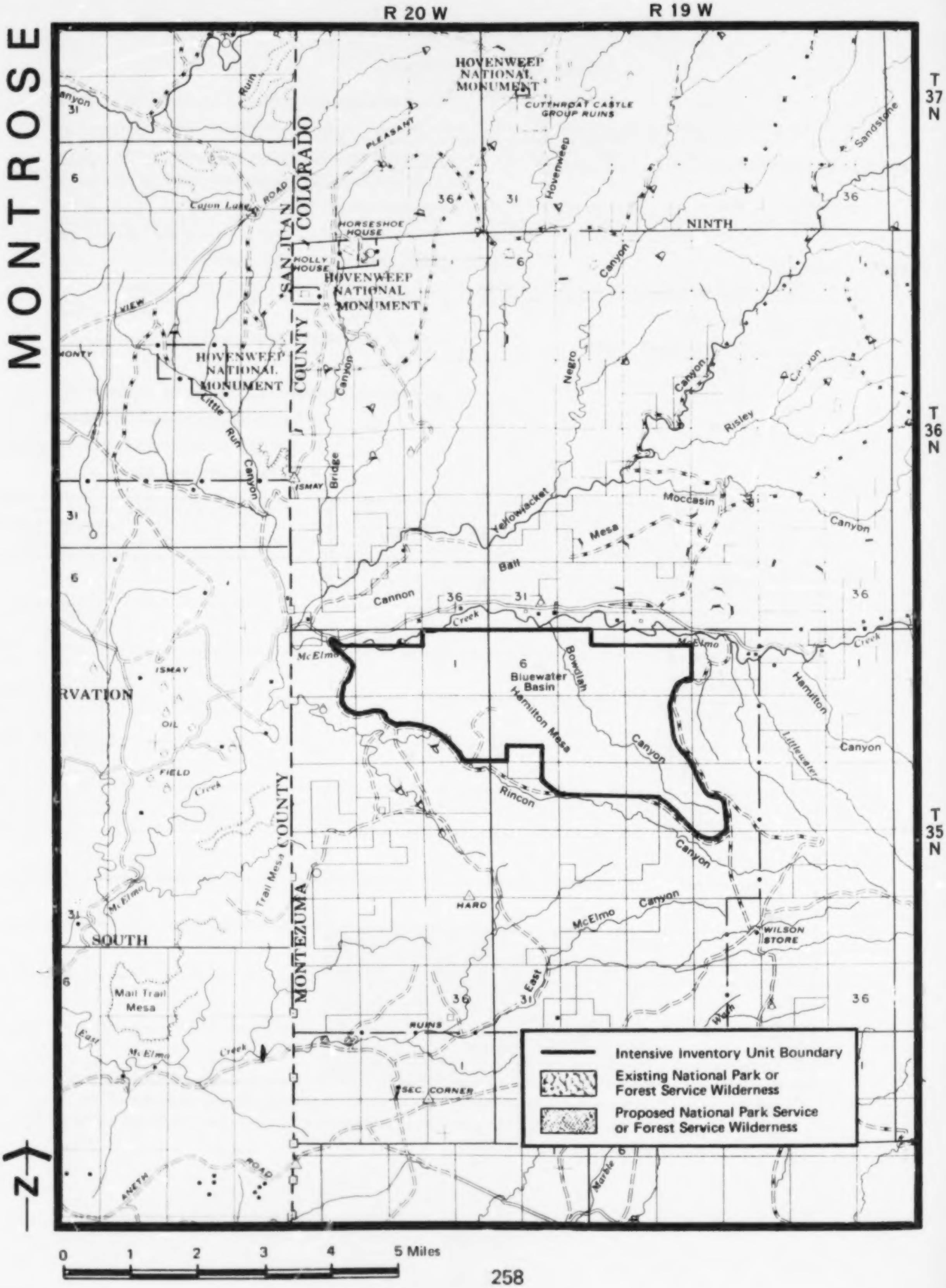
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

2 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
____ # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.						
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS	1					1
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	1	1		2		
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	1		1
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	1		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨			

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-030-262 Hamilton Mesa



R 20 W
R 19 W
T 37 N
T 36 N
T 35 N
MONTROSE
SAN JUAN COUNTY
COLORADO
MONTEZUMA COUNTY
HOVENWEEP NATIONAL MONUMENT
CUTTHROAT CASTLE GROUP RUINS
HORSESHOE HOUSE
HOLLY HOUSE
Hovenweep
Pleasant
Sandstone
NINTH
Negro
Canyon
Risley
Yellowjacket
Moccasin
Mesa
Ball
Cannon
Creek
McElmo
Hamilton
Littlewater
Bluewater Basin
Bowdish
Hamilton Mesa
Rincon
HARD
WILSON STORE
East
RUINS
SEC CORNER
Marble
Cajon Lake
ROAD
VIEW
Little Ruin Canyon
ISMAY
Bridge
OIL
FIELD
Trail Mesa
Mail Trail Mesa
SOUTH
RVATION
ANETH
N
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness

CO-030-262
Area Not Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

HAMILTON MESA

CO-030-262

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area and will be released from further wilderness study

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 6,240 acres intensively inventoried
0 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
0 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____Yes X No

GENERAL LOCATION: Southwest of Cortez (Montezuma County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: The initial inventory situation evaluation recommended 6,760 acres for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: Several boundary adjustments were made following the public comment period (5/79 to 7/79) and field inventory. Approximately 2,200 acres were added to the northwestern edge of the unit when this area was found to be natural in character. Another 2,500 acres were deleted from the southern edge of the unit when field checks showed the presence of a substantially noticeable way that passed through the unit. 6,460 acres were identified for intensive inventory following the boundary adjustments.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: Intensive field inventory conducted during the summer of 1979 indicated that the unit lacked outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. The relatively small size of the unit in conjunction with little topographic variation limited the opportunities for both solitude and primitive recreation. An error in previous acreage calculations resulted in a reduction in acreage (6,240 acres) even though no boundary adjustments were made. 0 acres were proposed as a WSA.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: The area is leased for grazing, oil and coal, and contains some unpatented mining claims. All lands within the unit are public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The area is surrounded by a mixture of private and public lands.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The topography of the unit varies from sandy washes and near vertical canyons to gently rolling mesas. The geologic structure of the area is best exhibited in the formations apparent within Blue Water Basin, an erosional, rounded-out area displaying the Morrison formation in almost a 360-degree view. Vegetation varies with topography with pinyon/juniper dominating the slopes of the canyons, and giving way to sagebrush and grass on the mesa tops. Along the canyon bottom, vegetation is sparse and in some areas virtually nonexistent.

Imprints of Man: Manmade disturbances consist mainly of stock reservoirs found within Blue Water Basin and some minor drainages and unobtrusive ways traversing Hamilton Mesa and extending within the unit from the eastern boundary road. Due to topographic screening and, in some instances, vegetative screening, these isolated impacts upon the landscape are substantially unnoticeable.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Two comments were received which stated the unit is primarily natural in character and untrammeled by man. One comment stated the area was roadless. These comments are in agreement with BLM's determination that the area is primarily natural in character. No comments were received stating the unit contains roads or is unnatural in appearance.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: The lack of vegetative cover, in combination with the relatively small size of the unit and general lack of topographic diversity, are all factors contributing to the lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude. Areas such as Bowdish Canyon do contain opportunities for solitude, but these are limited and cannot be considered "outstanding".

Evaluation of Public Comments: A total of four comments were received addressing outstanding opportunities for solitude. Three comments stated in general terms that the unit contains outstanding opportunities for solitude. No specific data was given. One comment stated there are no features of this unit which lend to a feeling of remoteness or solitude. The BLM's determination in the area, due to its limited size and lack of vegetative and topographic diversity, is that the area does not have outstanding solitude opportunities. No comments were received specifically disagreeing with this criteria.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: The unit provides opportunities for several primitive and unconfined recreation activities such as hiking, horseback riding and hunting. However, because of the relatively small size of the unit in conjunction with the lack of topographic diversity in the core of the unit, these cannot be called outstanding opportunities.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Two comments were received which stated the unit contains outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. No specific comments were given which would change BLM's determination that the unit does not contain outstanding opportunities. No comments were received stating the unit is without outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: The Hamilton Mesa unit is within an area rich in archeological resources. These archeological sites have cultural and educational values which enhance the unit's wilderness quality.

Evaluation of Public Comments: One comment was received which stated there are no unique values within this unit. Through archeological resource inventories, the BLM does have records of significant archeological sites within the Hamilton Mesa unit. No comments were received stating the area contains supplemental values.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

All imprints within the unit are returning to a natural condition without manmade manipulation. No portions of the unit require active rehabilitation. No comments addressing reclamation potential were received.

RATIONALE FOR NOT IDENTIFYING THIS UNIT AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The Hamilton Mesa unit is primarily natural in character and is of sufficient size to be considered for wilderness study. However, due to the small size of the unit relative to the lack of topographic and vegetative diversity, the area does not contain outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Therefore, the unit does not meet all the criteria required of a Wilderness Study Area and, thus, is not recommended for further wilderness study.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. Since this area has not been identified as a WSA, comments addressing these concerns will be utilized by BLM in future land-use planning.

No comments addressing non-inventory information was received.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Hamilton Mesa
CO 030 262

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 4

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 5
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:
4 Personal Letters
____ Postcards
____ Public Comments Forms
____ Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

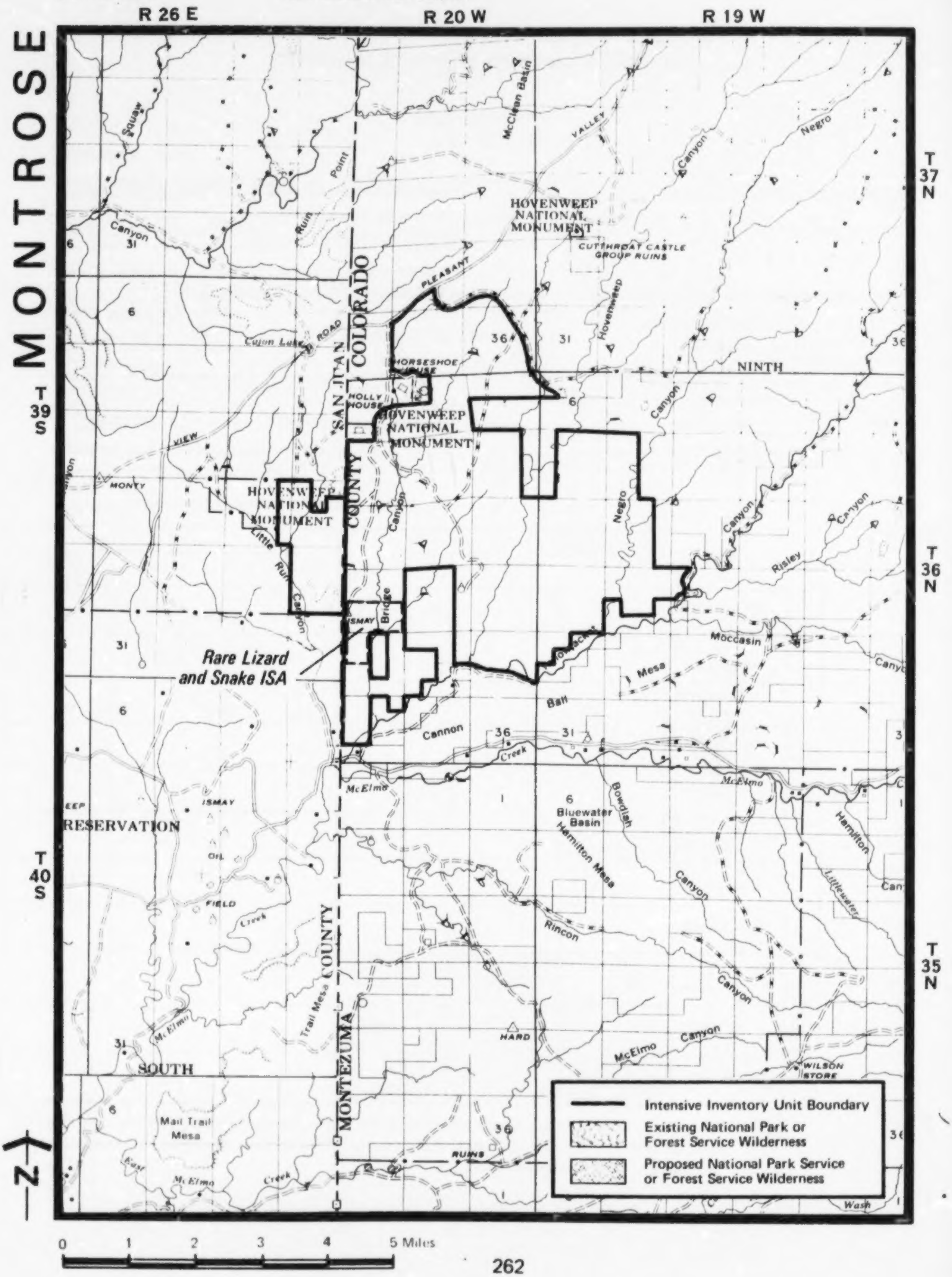
GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:
4 Colorado
____ Utah
____ Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:
3 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
0 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.						
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS						
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	2	1		3		
	OTHER	1			1		
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	3		
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	1		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨			

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-030-263 Rare Lizard and Snake


R 26 E
R 20 W
R 19 W
MONTROSE
T 39 S
T 40 S
T 37 N
T 36 N
T 35 N
HOVENWEEP NATIONAL MONUMENT
CUTTHROAT CASTLE GROUP RUINS
HORSESHOE HOUSE
HOLLY HOUSE
SAN JUAN COUNTY
COLORADO
MONTEZUMA COUNTY
Rare Lizard and Snake ISA
ISMAY
RESERVATION
SOUTH
NINTH
PLEASANT
VALLEY
VIEW
MONTY
Cajon Lake
ROAD
Ruin Point
Squaw
McClean Basin
Negro
Hovenweep
Risley
Moccasin
Mesa
Bridge
Cannon
Bait
McElmo
Creek
Bluewater Basin
Bowdish
Hamilton Mesa
Hamilton
Rincon
Littlewater
Canyon
HARD
WILSON STORE
Mail Trail Mesa
Trail Mesa
OIL
FIELD
RUINS
Wash
N
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

CO-030-263
UT-060-232
Area Not Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

RARE LIZARD AND SNAKE

CO-030-263
UT-060-232

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area and will be released from further wilderness study.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 14,680 acres intensively inventoried (CO - 13,410 acres; UT - 1,270 acres)
0 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendations (both CO and UT)
0 acres identified as a WSA (both CO and UT)

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____Yes _X_No

GENERAL LOCATION: West of Cortez (Montezuma County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision:
3/14/79: The initial inventory situation evaluation recommended 14,640 acres of Unit CO-030-263 for intensive inventory. This acreage included the 480-acre Rare Lizard and Snake Instant Study Area.

4/79: The Utah BLM proposed 1,270 acres of Unit UT-060-232 as an intensive inventory unit. This area is contiguous with the Colorado Unit CO-030-263.

Final Initial Inventory Decision:
8/31/79: Field inventory and public comment received during the public comment period (5/79 to 7/79) resulted in the exclusion of 2,200 acres due to the presence of a way leading to private land that bisected the unit. Following this boundary adjustment, 12,440 acres were identified for intensive inventory.

8/79: The Utah BLM recommended that 1,000 acres of Unit UT-060-232 be intensively inventoried. One boundary adjustment occurred when a road was found to occur in the northwest corner of the unit. This deletion totaled 500 acres.

Proposed WSA Decision:
2/1/80: Intensive inventory field studies conducted during the summer of 1979 indicated that the unit was not primarily natural in character due to the cumulative effect of numerous ways and stock reservoirs. The unit also lacks outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation due to the presence of private land projecting into the unit which restricts the freedom of movement within the unit. The unnatural condition of the area also detracts from the primitive recreation experience. As a result of these filed checks and a correction in acreage calculations, 12,413 acres were not recommended as a WSA. A Wilderness Report on the 433-acre Rare Lizard and Snake area was also released at this time. This report is required for all Instant Study Areas. The Wilderness Report recommended that the final decision as to whether the area meets the wilderness criteria as defined by the Wilderness Act of 1964 be deferred until the final intensive inventory decision is made by the State Director.

4/1/80: The Utah BLM recommended that Unit UT-060-232 not be proposed as a WSA. This decision was based on the lack of sufficient size when Colorado BLM proposed that the contiguous Unit CO-030-263 be dropped from further consideration because of a lack of naturalness.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: The unit contains 12,413 acres of public land in Colorado and 1,000 acres of public land in the Utah portion. There are 160 acres of non-public land inholdings within the Colorado unit (T. 36N., R. 20W., NMPM, Section 27: W½NE¼ and NW¼SE¼), but these are not calculated in the inventory acreage nor are they inventoried for wilderness characteristics. The unit is surrounded by a mixture of public and private lands. A majority of the unit is covered by winter and spring grazing leases. Most of the unit is leased for CO_2 development. The Utah portion, in addition to the public and private land, is bordered by the Hovenweep National Monument and Navajo Indian Reservation.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The Rare Lizard and Snake unit consists of canyons of a northwest to southeast orientation interspersed with rolling mesas and solitary buttes. The vegetation in the unit varies between sagebrush to pinyon-juniper.

Imprints of Man: In the Colorado portion, the most common imprints are old ways used for access to grazing allotments and stock reservoirs. Most of these ways follow major drainages. When considered separately, the ways are only minor imprints but the cumulative effect of all the ways constitutes a substantial impact upon the naturalness of the unit. They show evidence of past construction (with bench cuts between one and five feet) and though they are not regularly maintained, they still provide access to stock reservoirs. A number of stock reservoirs can be found in the unit. Three reservoirs are located along the way to the east of Bridge Canyon. Two can be found near the extreme northern boundary of the unit. Two can be found near the extreme northern boundary of the Canyon. One reservoir can be found along a way between Hovenweep and Negro Canyons. Though most of the reservoirs are revegetating and unnoticeable, some still hold water and are used by grazing stock. A small area of about 50 acres in the northern portion of the unit was chained some 15-20 years ago. The stumps are still noticeable, though the area is beginning to revegetate with young juniper, sage and a variety of perennial grasses. These imprints, when considered together, constitute significant impacts upon the unit's naturalness. Man's works within the unit are substantially noticeable, impacting the area's naturalness and making it unsuitable for further wilderness consideration. The Utah segment contains three ways and a powerline which produced an unnatural character over approximately 10 percent of their unit.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Twenty-one comments addressing naturalness were received by Colorado. Four comments supported the BLM's 2/1/80 decision that the unit was not natural in character. Two of these comments mentioned the presence of oil and gas exploration pads as well as producing wells within the unit. Another comment stated there were 5-11 miles of fence line and 9 reservoirs within the unit; however, no specific locations for these imprints were given. One letter stated the area is unnatural due to ways, abandoned oil and gas pads, as well as numerous outside interferences. Seventeen comments disagreed with the BLM's recommendations. Most of these comments stated the ways within the unit were unnoticeable due to extensive revegetation. Several of these comments stated the stock reservoirs within the unit were generally small and were overgrown with vegetation. As stated in the "Imprints of Man" section, the ways and reservoirs are minor impairments to naturalness taken separately. However, the cumulative effect of the imprints produces an overall impression of the unit being substantially impacted by man.

Two comments were received by Utah concerning naturalness on their portion of the unit. Two cited imprints of man are found within the unit, and one specifically addressed a powerline in the southeast corner. This powerline was excluded from the unit. One comment stated the unit was over 90 percent natural which agreed with Utah's intensive inventory.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: The canyons within the unit provide topographic screening as well as vegetative screening by pinyon-juniper. Though the mesa tops are relatively flat, small washes found along the periphery of the mesas add complexity and diversity to the landscape. Scenic vistas atop the mesas promote feelings of remoteness and isolation which enhance opportunities for solitude. This unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Thirteen letters to Colorado and Utah offices supported the BLM's determination that this unit contains outstanding opportunities for solitude. Rugged topography and vegetative screening were cited as the primary factors influencing solitude. One letter stated the unit does not offer solitude because the activities of man outside the unit are visible while in the unit. Outside sights and sounds were not considered during the inventory phase of the wilderness review process but can be considered in the study phase.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: With numerous ways dividing the area and private land projecting into the unit, unconfined freedom of movement is restricted, limiting recreational activity. Though the area provides some opportunity for primitive, unconfined recreation, outstanding opportunities do not exist.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Ten comments concerning Colorado and Utah's units addressed primitive recreation opportunities. All ten of these comments disagreed with the BLM's determination that the area does not contain outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. These letters mentioned that the unit contained outstanding opportunities for archeological exploration, desert camping, hiking, backpacking, birdwatching and photography. While opportunities for these activities do exist, the private land in the unit could have a very confining effect on travel in these units; as such, the opportunities were determined to not be outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: The unit is within a rich archeological area and a number of sites have been discovered within the unit. This includes trading and camping sites of the Anasazi Indians. The area also displays a variety of topographic and vegetative features which provide diverse habitats for animals ranging from reptiles to large game. 443 acres have been administratively designated as a natural area by the Bureau of Land Management to protect the habitat of rare lizards and snakes found within the area. The unit displays a convergence of two major regions, the Colorado Plateau and the Great Basin, and due to this merging, contains an assemblage of herpetofauna found only in this zone. The desert ecosystem displayed within the unit also offers opportunities to study desert ecology.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Thirteen comments stated the unit contained supplemental values. Most of the comments mentioned the presence of numerous archeological sites which were considered to be of supplemental value. One comment noted the area's proximity to Hovenweep National Monument was a supplemental value. Hovenweep does not include any land currently within the National Wilderness Preservation System nor is any land proposed for wilderness designation. Other supplemental values noted in the comments are geological and ecological values.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

Six comments stated the imprints of man within the unit could be reclaimed by hand labor or natural means. The intensive inventory determined that, due to the substantial amount of the imprints (18 miles of ways, 7 stock reservoirs, fences, and a 50-acre chaining), hand labor would not be feasible and that natural methods, due to the limited rainfall, would not significantly return the area to a natural condition.

RATIONALE FOR NOT IDENTIFYING THIS UNIT AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The Rare Lizard and Snake unit is of sufficient size and contains a number of supplemental values including an unusual assemblage of herpetofauna. Small washes and canyons in combination with pinyon/juniper woodland provide outstanding opportunities for solitude within the unit. However, the unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation nor does it meet the naturalness criteria. Man's works within the unit are substantially noticeable impacting the area's naturalness, thus making it unsuitable for further wilderness consideration.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. Since this area has not been identified as a WSA, comments addressing these concerns will be utilized by BLM in future land use planning.

Three comments were received which stated that the units contains oil and gas leases, coal reserves, mining claims, and potential for CO_2. Another comment stated the unit is leased for grazing. One comment suggested the area would be a good buffer zone to Hovenweep National Monument. One commentor said that the area needed protection.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Rare Lizard and Snake Instant Study Area
CO 030 263

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 34

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 39
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:
30 Personal Letters
____ Postcards
4 Public Comments Forms
____ Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:
30 Colorado
1 Utah
3 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:
29 = FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
4 = AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 = No Recommendation Given

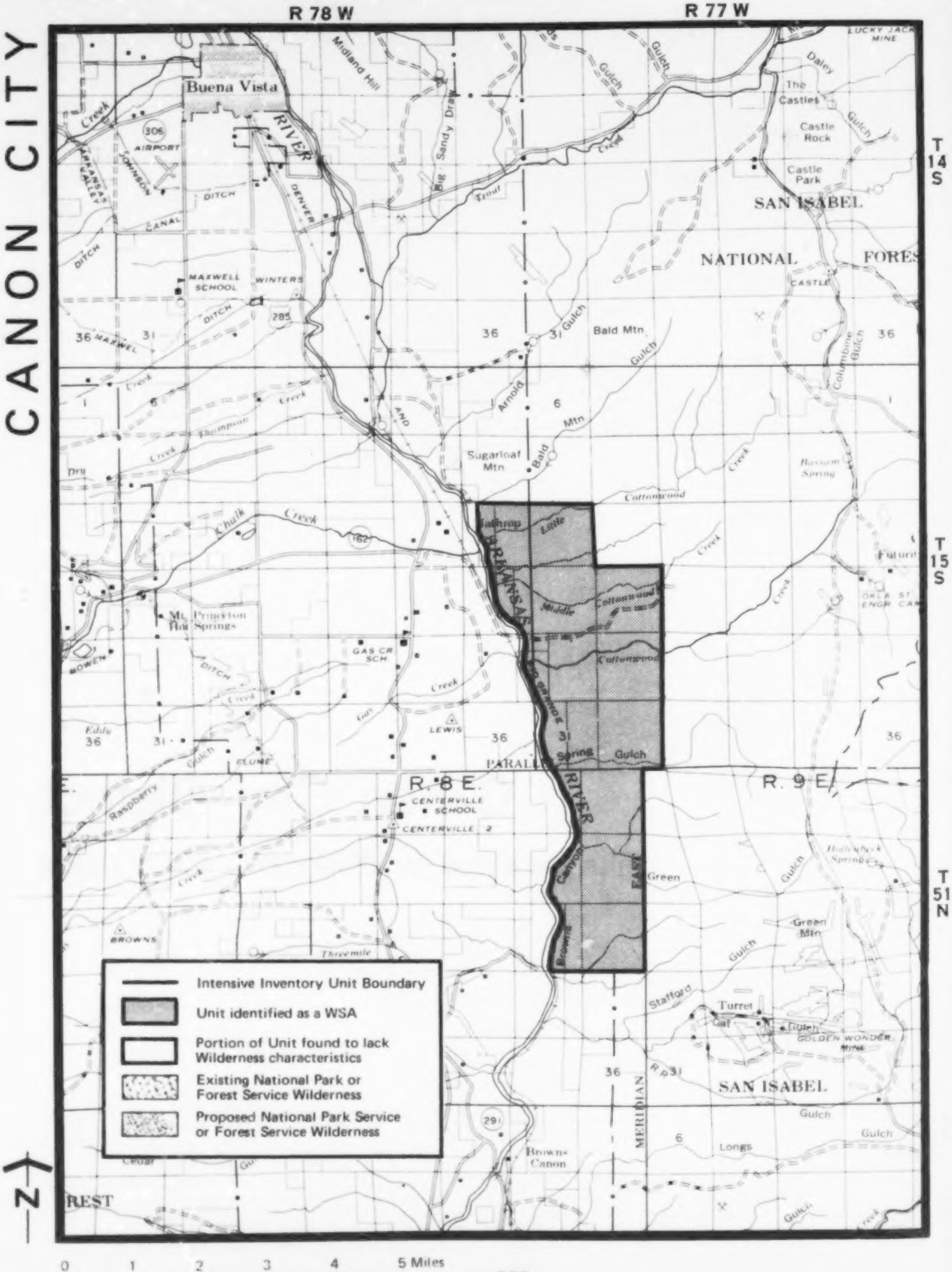
		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	5			3	1	1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS	2	2		4		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.	1			1		
	FEDERAL GOVT.	1			1		
	INDIVIDUAL	20	2	1	21		2
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	25	1	3
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	4		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	1		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

Canon City District

Units identified as Wilderness Study Areas

CO-050-002 Browns Canyon


R 78 W
R 77 W
T 14 S
T 15 S
T 51 N
R. 8 E.
R. 9 E.
Buena Vista
ARKANSAS RIVER
Midland Hill
Big Sandy Draw
Trout Creek
Gulch
LUCKY JACK MINE
Daley Gulch
The Castles
Castle Rock
Castle Park
SAN ISABEL NATIONAL FOREST
AIRPORT
306
285
162
291
MAXWELL SCHOOL
WINTERS DITCH
CANAL
Bald Mtn
Arnold Gulch
Sugarloaf Mtn
Cottonwood Creek
Chalk Creek
Mt. Princeton Hot Springs
GAS CR SCH
Gas Creek
LEWIS
Columbine Gulch
Bassam Spring
Lathrop
Little
Middle Cottonwood
Cottonwood
Spring Gulch
PARALLEL
CENTERVILLE SCHOOL
CENTERVILLE
Raspberry Gulch
FLUME
BROWNS
Threemile
Browns Canyon
EAST
Green
Green Mtn
Hollenbeck Springs
Stafford Gulch
Turret
GOLDEN WONDER MINE
MERIDIAN
Longs
Browns Canon
Cedar
REST
36
31
1
6
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
N
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

CO-050-002
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

BROWNS CANYON

CO-050-002

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): The unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): The unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 6,468 acres intensively inventoried
6,468 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
6,614 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: X Yes ____ No

Additions 146 acres Deletions 0 acres

Since the 2/1/80 proposal the BLM has purchased 146 acres of land contiguous to this unit for recreation. The land was inventoried and has the necessary wilderness characteristics. As a result the acreage has been added to the unit.

GENERAL LOCATION: Approximately 6 miles south of Buena Vista (Fremont and Chaffee Counties)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: A 6,468 acre unit was proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: No changes were made in the unit boundaries.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: Intensive inventory field work proved the unit to be essentially natural. The entire 6,468 was recommended as a WSA.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: The unit contains 6,614 acres of public land administered by the BLM. A proposed protective withdrawal was filed in 1976 to protect the scenic, historic, geologic, and natural values of the majority of the area while it was being studied for primitive area qualities. Contiguous lands are a combination of public, private, and U.S. Forest Service lands.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The topography in the unit is rugged, varying in elevation from an average of 7,500 feet near the Arkansas River to approximately 8,400 feet near the eastern boundary. Access is possible by walking along the Arkansas River and going up any of the following gulches: Little and Middle Cottonwood, Cottonwood Creek, Spring Gulch, Green Gulch, Sawmill Gulch, and one unnamed gulch going through Sec.24, T.51N., R.8 E. Vegetation throughout the area is sparce with pinyon-juniper being the most common timber type and ground cover including rabbitbrush, blue gramma grass, mountain muhly, Indian ricegrass, prickly pear cactus, and yucca.

Imprints of Man: A few old mines and old cabins remain within the area. These are generally not visible from more than 75 feet and are considered substantially unnoticeable due to topographic and vegetative screening. The fact that these are shaft mines makes them less visible than pits.

Evaluation of Public Comments: One letter stated there is evidence of man's presence in the unit (old mines and cabins) as indicated in the intensive inventory report. As previously noted, these imprints are substantially unnoticeable due to topographic and vegetative screening. Six comments indicated belief that the unit was in a natural condition which is in agreement with the BLM recommendations of February 1, 1980.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: The topography of the unit is very rugged with many mountains, hills, canyons, and gulches. The canyons and gulches offer outstanding opportunities for solitude since they screen individuals from one another within the unit. These specifically include Little and Middle Cottonwood Creek, Cottonwood Creek, Spring Gulch, Sawmill Gulch, Green Gulch, and other unnamed gulches. In addition, many of the gulches have cottonwood trees providing vegetative screening. A good example of both topographic and vegetative screening is in the NE1/4, Sec.29, T.15S., R.77W.

Evaulation of Public Comments: Five comments addressed solitude. Three comments were received which stated the unit has outstanding opportunities for solitude which is in agreement with BLM recommendations. Of these three comments two specifically referred to the winding canyons and varied topography providing solitude. Another letter stated "none of the shore would be outstanding in this canyon". BLM fieldwork has shown the majority of this unit contains varied contours which provided outstanding opportunities for solitude. One comment stated there were not opportunities for solitude in the unit because of outside sights and sounds.

As stated in the BLM Wilderness Inventory Handbook - (when determining whether or not an area has outstanding opportunities for solitude) "consider factors which influence solitude only as they affect a person's opportunity to avoid the sights, sounds, and evidence of other people in the inventory unit." Sights and sounds outside an inventory unit will be considered in the study phase of the wilderness review. Based on this guidance for conducting the wilderness inventory, BLM recommendations remain the same: The unit has outstanding opportunities for solitude.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: The configuration of the land offers outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation within the drainages. Outstanding opportunities exist for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, and snowshoeing. A 3 1/2 mile loop trail goes along Middle Cottonwood Gulch, Cottonwood Gulch along the Arkansas River. The unit offers outstanding opportunities for bird-watching, with 10 different species of birds and eight species of raptors being spotted. These include great-horned owl, saw whet and screech owls, Swainson's Hawk, and golden eagle. Outstanding opportunities exist for photography and sightseeing for ecologic features within this unit. The many hills and peaks provide vantage points for photography, while the exposed cliffs make it easy to study various types of geologic strata.

Evaluation of Public Comments: The majority of comments received (6) agreed with BLM intensive inventory fieldwork which indicated that outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation were present in the unit. These comments were somewhat specific stating there are outstanding opportunities for hiking, rock climbing, photography, hunting, and sightseeing for geological features. The one negative comment stated "None of the shore would be outstanding in this canyon." BLM fieldwork has shown the majority of this unit contains varied contours which provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: The unit contains important cultural resource values representing a period from 10,000 years ago through more historic periods.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Nine comments supported BLM fieldwork which indicated the unit has supplemental values. More specifically the comments referred to the archeological and historical values of the area with four comments mentioning the wildlife. One general comment said the unit had no supplemental values.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

All impacts in this unit are minimal and well screened by either the surrounding topography or vegetation, and are not major impacts. Only one comment addressed reclamation. It was in support of the BLM February 1, 1980 recommendation that the imprints of man within the unit were small and did not need reclamation. In addition the comment claimed these imprints added historical value to the unit.

RATIONAL FOR RECOMMENDING AS A WSA:

Unit 002 contains all the physical characteristics (including solitude) to qualify it as a Wilderness Study Area. It is over 5,000 acres of contiguous land which is all administered by the BLM. While there are some imprints of man, these are all minor detractions from naturalness. The most significant imprint is part of a way in Secs. 19 and 20, T.15S., R.77W. However, pinyon and juniper trees have screened this part of the way so it is not visible from over 25 yards. Outstanding opportunities for solitude are available in many places throughout the unit, however, the more accessible locations are in the major drainages: Little and Middle Cottonwood Creek, Cottonwood Creek, Spring Gulch, Sawmill Gulch, and Green Gulch. Vegetative screening and the mountains rising around these gulches screen out outside sights and sounds. Sightseeing and photography of birds, mammals, and scenery are also available in this unit. Ten types of birds and eight types of raptors have been spotted. Other types of primitive and unconfined recreation include hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, and snowshoeing through any of the major drainages previously mentioned. Rock outcroppings also provide for geologic study of various rock strata. Many important archeological sites have been found within the unit boundary. All of the values mentioned above combine to give this area the qualities necessary to become a WSA.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

Four comments stated that the adjacent Aspen Ridge area complimented the wilderness values of this unit. Another comment stated this unit shows promising mineral potential and should be managed under multiple use.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Browns Canyon
CO 050 002

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 22

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 22
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

15	Personal Letters
2	Postcards
5	Public Comments Forms
	Meetings
	Phone Calls
	Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

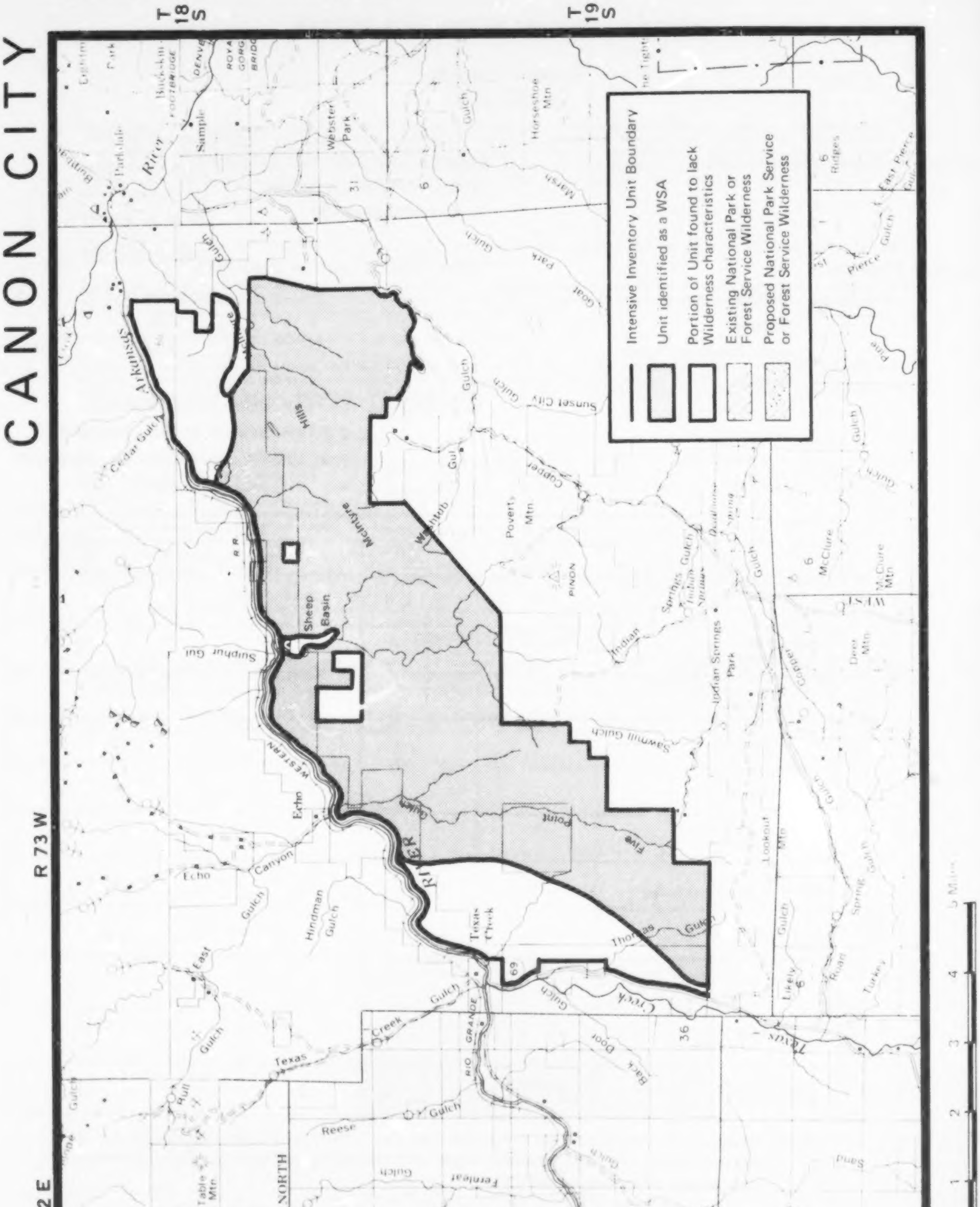
19	Colorado
	Utah
3	Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

17	# FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
3	# AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
2	# No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	4			3		1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		2	1	3		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE			1	1		
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	13	1		12		2
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	14		3
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	3		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	2		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.


CANON CITY
T 18 S
T 19 S
R 73 W
R 12 E
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
Arkansas
River
RIVER
McIntyre
Hills
Sheep Basin
Echo
Echo Canyon
Texas Creek
Texas
Cedar Gulch
Sulphur Gul
Hindman Gulch
Webster Park
Horseshoe Mtn
Sample
Parkdale
Sunset City Gulch
Copper Gul
Poverty Mtn
Pinon
Indian Springs Park
Sawmill Gulch
Five Point Gulch
Thomas Gulch
Lookout Mtn
McClure Mtn
Deer Mtn
Table Mtn
Reese Gulch
Fernleaf Gulch
Back Door Gulch
Goat Park Gulch
Marsh Gulch
Pierce Gulch
Ridges
Bull Gulch
Long Gulch
East Gulch
NORTH
WESTERN
RIO GRANDE
Turkey
Sand
69
36
31
6
0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles

N

CO-050-013
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

MCINTYRE HILLS

CO-050-013

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 20,100 acres intensively inventoried
16,800 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
16,800 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____Yes __X__No

GENERAL LOCATION: Twelve miles southwest of Canon City (Fremont County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: A 15,063 acre unit was proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: It was determined that certain powersite withdrawals could be included under wilderness reviews so approximately 5,100 acres were added which produced a 20,100 acre unit.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: Three deletions were made during the intensive inventory totaling approximately 3,300 acres. The northeast corner was altered to exclude ways and mining activity. The boundary was altered along Sheep Basin to omit two ways, a mine, water pipeline and a large earth filled dam. A major alteraton along the western boundary was made to exclude old mining activity, ways, a powerline and cut and filled banks of an old railroad system.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: The McIntyre Hills unit contains 16,800 acres of public land with 350 acres of Colorado State lands (T.18S., R.73W., Sec.36) and 60 acres of private land (T.18S., R.72W., Sec.29) as inholdings. The inholdings are not calculated in the inventory unit acreage and are not inventoried for wilderness characteristics. The unit is surrounded by a mixture of public, private and statelands. The unit is covered by an active grazing lease. Within the boundaries over 50 mining claims have been documented. Portions of the unit along the northern and western borders are covered by a powersite withdrawal.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The McIntyre Hills unit consists of a mixture of rolling hills and steep, rugged mountains. The unit is incised by meandering streams which create a maze of interconnected valleys and gulleys. The vegetation within McIntyre Hills consists of pinyon-juniper throughout the unit with some pine and fir in the higher elevations. The larger stream beds contain cottonwood trees.

Imprints of Man: The acreage remaining in the unit is generally natural in character. The imprints remaining include a way, mineral exploration pits, and an old corral, all of which are well-screened by vegetation and are either rehabilitating naturally or could be removed by hand labor.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Four comments agreed with BLM's judgement that this unit is essentially natural with only minor imprints of man remaining within the boundaries. One of these comments stated that the new boundaries created after the intensive inventory field work omitted all major impacts of man such as mining activity.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Outstanding opportunities for solitude exist throughout the McIntyre Hills Unit. Numerous drainages flow through the unit in a south to north direction. These drainages twist and turn to create areas where visitors can be screened from one another within a few yards. Side drainages add additional miles of the same quality areas. Additional areas which offer solitude can be found on the hills and mountains because of the heavy vegetation. Thickets of pinyon-juniper and pine create areas that provide screening.

Evaluation of Public Comment: Seven comments agreed with BLM's judgement that the unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. All these comments gave vegetative screening and topographic configuration as their reasoning. One comment stated that because the unit is surrounded by a major highway and other roads that there were no opportunities present because of the noise created by traffic. Guidelines for conducting the wilderness inventory in the Wilderness Inventory Handbook states that outside sounds and influences cannot be considered during the inventory process. Consideration will be given to circumstances such as this during the study phase of the wilderness process.

Another comment stated that because of the Colorado State land inholdings an irregular shaped piece of land was created near the northern border and this area should be deleted from the unit. BLM findings are that this portion of the unit contains outstanding opportunities for solitude and remains essentially natural so that the area can not be dropped from the unit. The manageability of this type of configuration will also be taken into consideration during the study phase of the wilderness process.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Opportunities to hike throughout this unit abound because of the stream beds. These intermittent streams have deposited sand and gravel beds which provide easy and interesting foot paths throughout the unit. In some areas the streams have worn through hard rock areas which provide stair stepped trails through gorges and canyons. The wildlife in this area offers opportunities for photography and sightseeing. The unit supports a good population of raptor birds such as golden and bald eagles and assorted hawks. Wild turkey are abundant throughout the year and deer use much of the area as winter habitat. Smaller animals are especially abundant around the springs found in the stream beds.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Six comments were received which addressed this issue. All comments supported BLM's findings that the unit offers outstanding opportunities for a primitive, unconfined recreation. Most stated opportunities present such as hiking, horseback riding, and camping.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: Located 15 minutes driving time from Canon City, McIntyre Hills is within easy access of the main population centers of Pueblo, Colorado Springs, and numerous smaller communities. Natural springs throughout the unit provide water for visitors. While not potable, the water can be boiled for human consumption.

Evaluation of Public Comments: One writer stated that he did not know of anything within the unit which could be considered a supplemental value. Seven others stated that this unit offered wildlife habit values ranging from bald eagle nesting grounds to a high concentration of mountain lions.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

The way, mineral exploration pits and old corral located in upper Five Point Gulch are rehabilitating through natural processes. Hand labor could be used to rehabilitate the area to a substantially unnoticeable condition if necessary. The firewood sale area along the southern border is rehabilitating naturally. The tire tracks are weathering and the color of the tree stumps has blended into the natural environment. The remains of the portable saw log operation could be removed by hand labor.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Five comments stated that the minor impacts of man which were noted in the intensive inventory narrative could be reclaimed through natural means or hand labor.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The McIntyre Hills unit contains 16,800 acres of public land. After the boundary changes during the intensive inventory, which omitted major works of man, the unit retains a natural appearance. Outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive, unconfined type of recreation abound in the gulleys, valleys, and hillsides. Several supplemental values have been identified, including close proximity to population centers and the availability of water. Overall, the unit meets the criteria required of a W.S.A. Public comments generally support the recommendation.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

One writer noted that the unit has a high mineral potential and should not be considered for WSA status. Another writer stated that the State of Colorado has land inholdings with state mineral rights. WSA status of this unit would not interfere with Colorado's mineral rights. A third comment stated that a half mile buffer zone should be incorporated along Highway 50. Guidelines for the wilderness inventory incorporated in the Wilderness Inventory Handbook states that buffer zones are not to be used. The intention of the inventory stage is to locate all contiguous public lands that have wilderness characteristics.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

McIntyre Hills

CO 050 013

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 16

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 17
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

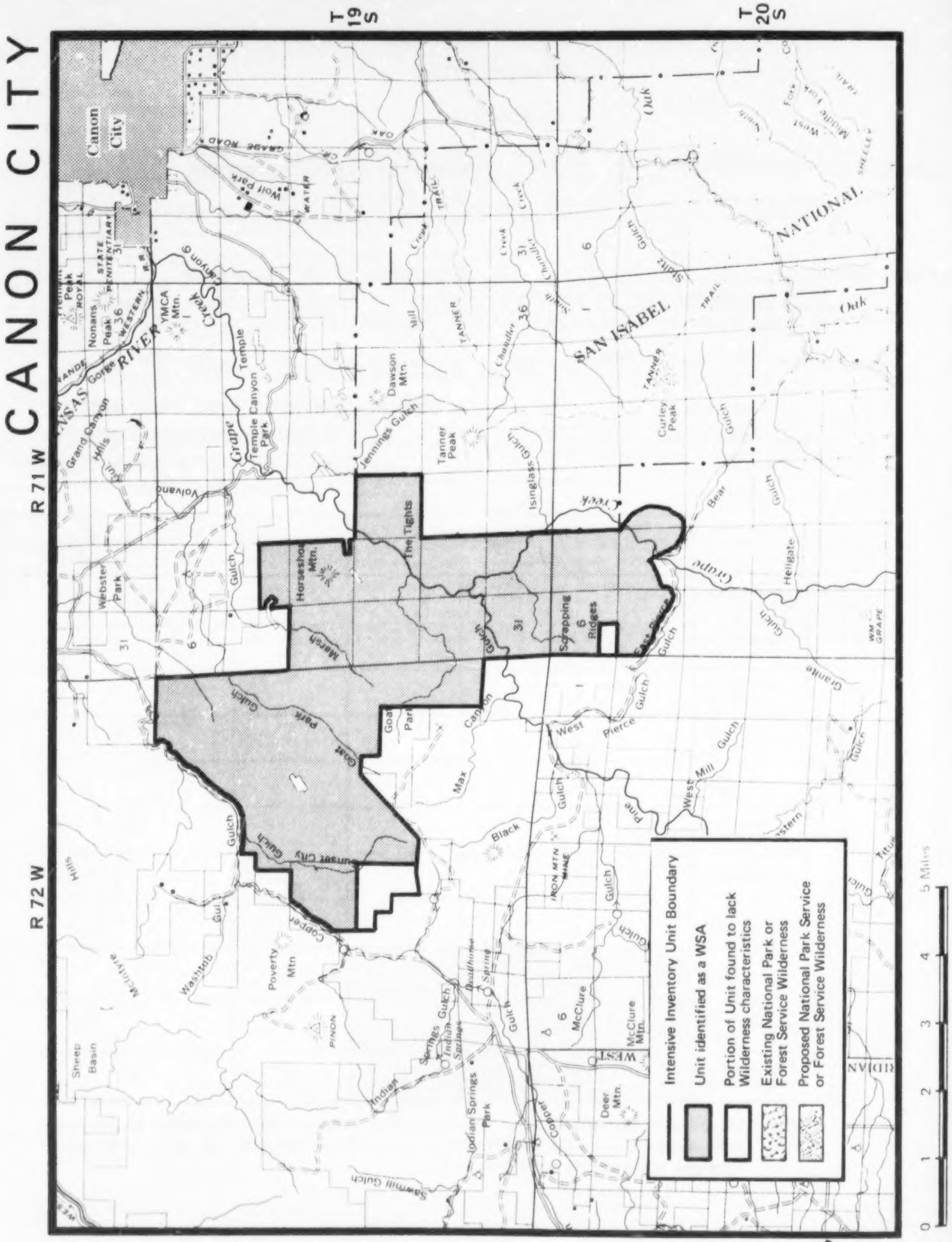
FORM OF COMMENTS:
13 Personal Letters
____ Postcards
3 Public Comments Forms
____ Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:
15 Colorado
____ Utah
1 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:
13 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
2 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	3			3		
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		1				1
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	10		2	12		
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	13		
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨			1
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	2		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.


CANON CITY
R 71 W
R 72 W
T 19 S
T 20 S
Canon City
Grand Canyon
Hills
Royal Gorge
Nonans Peak
STATE PENITENTIARY
YMCA Mtn.
Temple Canyon
Temple Canyon Park
Grape Creek
Dawson Mtn
Jennings Gulch
Tanner Peak
Isinglass Gulch
SAN ISABEL NATIONAL
Curley Peak
Oak Creek
Wolf Park
Webster Park
Volcano
The Tights
Horseshoe Mtn.
Marsh Gulch
Scrapping Ridges
Bear Gulch
Hellgate Gulch
Goat Park Gulch
Sunset City Gulch
Max Canyon
Black Mtn
West Pierce Gulch
West Mill Gulch
Pine
Iron Mtn Mine
Copper Gulch
Poverty Mtn
Washtub Gulch
Pinon
Indian Springs Park
Indian Springs Gulch
Deadhorse Spring
McClure Mtn.
Deer Mtn.
Sheep Basin
Sawmill Gulch
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

N

CO-050-014
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

LOWER GRAPE CREEK

CO-050-014

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): The unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): The unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 13,000 acres intensively inventoried
11,700 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
11,700 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustment from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____Yes __X__ No

GENERAL LOCATION: Approximately 7 miles west of Canon City (Fremont County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: A 10,937 acre unit was proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: Approximately 2,000 acres were added to the unit because of public comments. These adjacent lands increased the size of the unit to 13,000 acres.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: As a result of the intensive inventory fieldwork, the unit was reduced to 11,700 acres because of mining scars and other works of man.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: Within the unit boundary is approximately 11,700 acres of public land and approximately 75 acres of private inholdings (in Sec.11 & 14, T.19S., R.72W. and in Sec.20, T.19S., R.71W.). The private land was not inventoried for wilderness characteristics, nor is it included in the total acreage of the unit. Contiguous lands are a combination of private and state ownership along with some public and U.S. Forest Service lands. These adjoining lands are used primarily for grazing and some mining exploration.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: Topography is steep and rugged with elevations varying from 6,400 feet near Webster Park to an average of 8,300 feet on three unnamed mountain peaks near Goat Park. Access to the unit is good through Sunset City, Goat Park and Marsh Gulch, and Grape Creek. Vegetation in the area is sparse. The primary vegetative type is pinyon and juniper with ponderosa pine frequently found along Grape Creek. Ground cover commonly includes a variety of grasses, rabbitbrush, prickly pear cactus, and yucca.

Imprints of Man: In Goat Park Gulch is an old gold mine which is well screened by topography and vegetation with the exception of one tailings pile which can be seen from about 40 yards away. There is a way from Marsh Gulch to some patented land in Sec.19, T.19S., R71W., however it is only a detraction from naturalness in Sec.19, T.19S., R71W., where some parts were cut and filled. This portion of the way is well screened with pinyon and juniper and is not a major impact.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Two comments were in agreement with the BLM intensive inventory findings that the unit has wilderness characteristics. One of these comments was very general and the other stated that the remains of the railroad grade, old buildings and mining associated activities did not detract substantially from naturalness. One comment stated that mines in the unit detract from naturalness. Another comment felt the old railroad bed from Canon City to Westcliffe is very dominant with deep cuts and fills.

BLM intensive inventory found the remains of only one mine within the unit on public land. This site was only visible from within 50 yards up or down the gulch and was well screened with vegetation. Also since no private land was inventoried, the two patented inholdings are considered outside the unit. The old railroad grade is only obvious in a few places and is grown over with vegetation and therefore not considered a major imprint of man. The railroad grade is a supplemental value because of its historical significance.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: This unit contains drainages such as Sunset City Gulch, Goat Park Gulch, Marsh Gulch, and Grape Creek which wind through mountains and other rugged topography. This topography in addition to the vegetation in some locations provides this unit with good screening. Due to these factors, this unit has outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Evaluation of Public Comment: Four general comments supported the BLM's intensive inventory findings that the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude. One comment stated the unit does not contain opportunities for solitude because of traffic on roads outside the unit's boundary. Another letter stated, in summary, that state and private inholdings directly affect the opportunities for solitude.

According to the BLM guidance for conducting wilderness inventory, so stated in the Wilderness Inventory Handbook, to determine whether or not the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude "consider factors which influence solitude only as they affect a person's opportunity to avoid the sights, sounds, and evidence of other people in the inventory unit." In accordance with this guidance, only sights and sounds in the unit were considered.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: The unit is very accessible through Sunset City Gulch, Goat Park Gulch, Marsh Gulch, and Grape Creek. These are all large drainages and have other smaller, but accessible, gulches feeding into them. These provide outstanding opportunities for hiking and backpacking. The unit also has scenic and photographic potential particularly from such vantage points as Horseshoe Mountain or any of three unnamed mountain peaks (over 8,000 feet) near the southern boundary. From these mountains the Sangre De Cristo Range can be seen along with a general panoramic view of the area. Also from the many ridges which parallel Grape Creek an outstanding view of the creek bed and surrounding canyons is available.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Seven comments generally supported the BLM intensive inventory finding that the unit had outstanding opportunities for primitive, and unconfined recreation. One of these letters referred to the variety of recreation available and another letter stated the unit offers opportunities for recreation when other areas are inaccessible because of snow. Two letters were general in nature stating the unit has opportunities for recreation. Three letters generally stated the unit had outstanding opportunities for hiking and one letter said the unit has good access. Another letter did not state whether or not the unit had outstanding opportunities for primitive, and unconfined recreation but stated, in summery, that state and private inholdings should be evaluated because activities or disturbances directly affect opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. During the BLM inventory process no land other than BLM administered public land was inventoried for wilderness characteristics.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: The railroad grade which is visible in a few locations along Grape Creek is a supplemental value because of its historical significance.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Four letters stated that there were supplemental values within the unit. One letter expressed the opinion that the unit was near enough to large population centers for that to be a supplemental value. Two comments stated the railroad grade was historical and two comments stated the area provided habitat for eagles and mountain lions. While the habitat is present for eagles and mountain lions, it is not of relative quantity and quality to be considered a supplemental value. The railroad grade along Grape Creek was not listed as a supplemental value in the BLM 2/1/80 recomendation. As a result of public comment and re-evaluation the BLM has determined that the railroad grade should be a supplemental value since it is of historical significance.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

All impacts in this unit are either minimal and well screened by vegetation or topography or are major impacts with no possibility of returning to a natural condition. These major impacts have been excluded from the boundary. One comment stated that the only imprints of man in the unit (poles) would easily be reclaimed. Another comment stated that the old railroad grade could not be reclaimed. As stated under "naturalness" the old railroad grade is a supplemental value. Therefore the BLM recommendation of 2/1/80 remains the same: nothing within the unit needs to be reclaimed.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING AS A WSA:

This unit is over 5,000 acres (11,700 acres) of contiguous land which is entirely administered by BLM. Access to the unit is provided through the major drainages - Sunset City, Goat Park, and Marsh Gulch and Grape Creek. No major imprints of man exist within the unit. Solitude is provided by the mountainous and varied topography within the unit in addition to vegetative screening in some of the drainages. Outstanding photographic and scenic opportunities are available from Horseshoe Mountain and several unnamed mountain peaks over 7,500 feet in the southern part of the unit. The ridges and mountains paralleling Grape Creek also provide opportunities for sightseeing and photography. All the above mentioned characteristics combine to give this unit the qualities necessary to become a Wilderness Study Area.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions. One letter stated that the states interests in surface and mineral management must be protected from wilderness considerations. Another letter expressed the concern that a wilderness designation of the unit would increase vandalism on his property. One comment stated there were decreed water rights along Grape Creek. Two letters stated there was mineral potential in the unit. One comment stated that all mining claims within the unit should be noted, not just patented land. One comment stated the areas should be protected to preserve the railroad grade going along Grape Creek. One comment stated the contiguous U.S. Forest Service managed Tanner Peak and the Lower Grape Creek unit should be manage cooperatively.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Lower Grape Creek
CO 050 014

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 16

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 16
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:
9 Personal Letters
1 Postcards
5 Public Comments Forms
_____ Meetings
1 Phone Calls
_____ Other

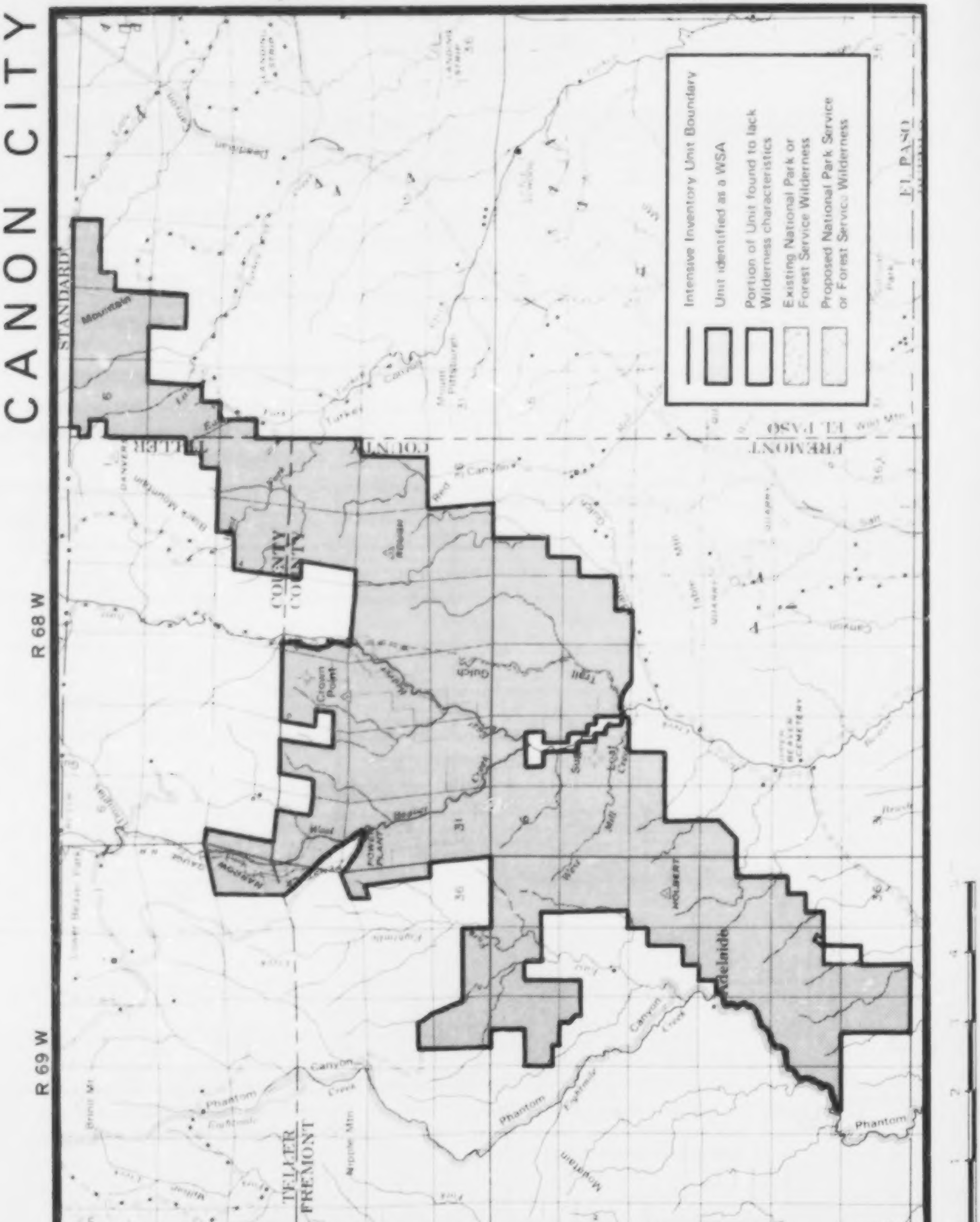
GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:
14 Colorado
_____ Utah
2 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:
10 = FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
5 = AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 = No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	3			2		1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		1				1
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.			1	1		
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	7	4		11		
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	9		1
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	4		1
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	1		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-050-016 Beaver Creek


CANON CITY
T 16 S
T 17 S
R 68 W
R 69 W
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
STANDARD
TELLER
COUNTY
FREMONT
EL PASO
TELLER
FREMONT
Mountain
Crown Point
Gulch
Trail
Beaver
Wind
POWER PLANT
HOLBERT
Adelaide
Phantom
Canyon
Eightmile
Nipple Mtn
Brind Mt
Sixmile
Mountain
0
1
2
3
4
5
N

CO-050-016
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

BEAVER CREEK

CO-050-016

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): The unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): The unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 26,210 acres intensively inventoried
26,210 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
26,150 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: X Yes ____ No

Additions 0 acres Deletions 60 acres (as a result of public comment)

GENERAL LOCATION: Northeast of Canon City (Fremont, Teller, and El Paso Counties)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: A 21,140 acre unit was proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: As a result of public comment which showed a "road" to be a "way", additional acreage was added to the unit. A 26,210 acre unit was intensively inventoried.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: Intensive inventory fieldwork proved the area to be essentially natural. A 26,210 acre unit was recommended as a Wilderness Study Area.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: With the exception of the land along the Beaver Creek streambed owned by the Colorado Division of Wildlife, all lands within the unit are public lands administered by BLM. The BLM and Colorado Division of Wildlife are in the process of working out a Cooperative Agreement for the interim management of this unit as a WSA. Joint wilderness management of this land will be negotiated should the unit be designated wilderness. The unit is surrounded by a mixture of public, private, and state land.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The Beaver Creek unit varies in topographic features from rolling hills in the south to 9,000 foot peaks in the north. The forces of nature are apparent in the geologic structures of the unit which was created by sedimentary uplifts, fault controlled streams and differential weathering. Vegetative patterns can be seen to change along with the geologic formations. The unit contains areas of semiarid vegetation which lead to riparian zones along the streams and conifer/pine forest mixes on most of the higher elevations.

Imprints of Man: Only minor imprints of man remain within the unit boundaries. Some of these imprints are old trails or ways along West and East Mill Gulch and maintenance trails along an old powerline with an occasional power pole still standing. Also associated with the trail system is a log cabin used by many recreational visitors. Minor imprints of man can also be found in the form of small exploration pits or mining scars at the confluence of the two forks of Beaver Creek and East and West Mill Gulch.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Six comments generally agreed with BLM recommendation that the area does qualify as a WSA; these noted the area is in a natural condition. Another letter noted there may still remain isolated small power line poles from the power plant and there is a short stretch of barb wire fence at the upper end of Trail Gulch. The letter also states the unit has a variety of interests for primitive and outdoor experiences. One comment noted there are mine exploration pits on the western side of the unit. As a result of the intensive inventory fieldwork these pits were found to be outside the unit. One comment states there is mining activity and other works of man within the unit. These impacts are listed by township, range, and section. It states that the impacts of man outside the unit affect the naturalness of the unit. As a result of this public comment the boundary around the clay pit in Sec.26, T.17S., R.69W. was altered to omit an additional 60 acres.

Based on public comments and field inventory, BLM recommendation remains the same: The unit is in a natural condition. The mine sites (no longer active) mentioned have a minimal impact on the unit since they are small and generally well screened by vegetation and topography. As stated in the BLM Wilderness Inventory Handbook, "Imprints of man outside the inventory unit will not normally be considered in assessing naturalness of a unit." None of the imprints of man outside the unit are significant enough to disqualify the unit from being considered in a natural condition.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Primarily due to the varied topography of the unit, with dozens of stream drainages rising to ridgetops over 9,000 feet in elevation, the Beaver Creek unit does offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. Vegetative screening is also a factor, particularly in the western portion of the unit. Pinyon/juniper dominates the vegetation type and generally covers most of the ridges throughout, making it difficult to distinguish other individuals who might be present.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Twelve comments generally agreed with BLM that the unit has outstanding opportunities for solitude. While no specific documentation was provided, the majority of these comments mentioned the varied contours, ruggedness, and vegetation within the unit as providing screening. One comment stated that solitude within the unit is not outstanding due primarily to outside influences as they impact the area. It also stated the impacts within the unit have the direct effect of degrading the quality of solitude. As stated in the BLM Wilderness Inventory Handbook - (when determining whether or not an area has outstanding opportunties for solitude) "consider factors which influence solitude only as they affect a person's opportunity to avoid the sights, sounds, and evidence of other people in the inventory unit." Imprints of man within the unit generally have minimal impact because of their size and vegetative screening. Based on public comment in support of BLM February 1, 1980, recommendation, this recommendation remains the same: The unit has outstanding opportunities for solitude.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are present in the Beaver Creek unit due to a combination of several factors. Topographic variation, unique geologic features, diverse plant and animal life, the creeks, and several access trails contribute to opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, photography, fishing, hunting, and general sightseeing. In general, the number of activities available and the quality of the experience associated with them, provide this unit with outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type or recreation.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eleven comments supported BLM recommendation that the unit has opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The majority of these comments listed outstanding opportunities available for fishing, hiking, camping, and photography within the unit. One comment stated "Nothing within the area can be determined to be prominent or conspicuous for recreational values that does not exist to a greater or lesser degree in the surrounding region." In addition this letter states in summary that there are realistically only two access points for the entire wilderness area and these access restrictions effectively prohibit nonmotorized recreation from the vast majority of the area.

Currently access along Beaver Creek is provided through the Colorado Division of Wildlife who manages and plans to continue to manage the land to provide primitive and unconfined recreation. As previously mentioned the BLM and Colorado Division of Wildlife are in the process of working out a Cooperative Agreement for the interim management of this unit as a WSA. The majority of this unit is accessible from Beaver Creek and Trail Gulch. BLM intensive inventory has indicated that the area has good access along Beaver Creek for diverse outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation within the unit. Issues such as access will be thoroughly evaluated during the study phase of the wilderness review along with other management considerations. Determinations of wilderness "quality" in a regional context will also be evaluated at that time.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: Beaver Creek's close proximity to several eastern slope cities and its year-round accessibility are considered to be supplemental values. Beaver Creek, itself, has unusual attributes, including high water quality and a population of native cutthroats.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Four comments supported BLM's intensive inventory information, that the unit is 2 1/2 hours drive of approximately one million people, which is a supplemental value. Six letters felt the unit provided a critical habit for wildlife and birds while four comments stated the unit contained a relatively unique ecosystem. In addition one letter addressed the educational experiences available, one letter stated the topography was a supplemental value and one letter stated the high water quality was a supplemental value, which is in support of the BLM 2/1/80 recommendation. One letter expressed the opinion that the proximity of western slope cities directly and adversely impacts on the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The letter also stated that the high water quality of Beaver Creek should not be considered as a supplemental value since the flow is not controlled within the unit.

The short driving distance to population centers would be a supplemental value since it would provide primitive recreational opportunities without spending alot of time driving. Should a unit develop the potential for overuse, good management would be a solution to the problem. Good water quality was present in Beaver Creek at the time of the BLM intensive inventory; maintenance of the water quality will be a management issue addressed during the study phase.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

All ways determined to have a minimal impact are rehabilitating naturally. Generally, all minor imprints of man remaining in the unit can be returned to a substantially unnoticeable condition by either natural processes or by hand labor. As a result of public comment the boundary in Sec.26 & 35, T.17S., R.69W. was changed to omit an additional 60 acres which partially contains a clay mine. Five comments were in support of the 2/1/80 BLM recommendation that generally all minor imprints of man remaining in the unit can be returned to a substantially unnoticeable condition by either natural processes or by hand labor. One comment felt that man made land forms such as cut and fills would return to a natural condition only in terms of geologic time. The BLM intensive inventory indicated that no imprints of man were severe enough to disqualify the unit from wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING AS A WSA:

Beaver Creek inventory unit is a large tract of undeveloped BLM land (26,150 acres), retaining its primeval character and influence, and containing no significant permanent improvements. Outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation are present, due to topographic and vegetative screening, as well as are several "supplemental values". Overall, the unit meets the criteria required of a Wilderness Study Area.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions. One letter felt that the state's interest in surface and mineral management must be protected from wilderness considerations. Twenty comments generally stated the unit should be protected.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Beaver Creek
CO 050 016

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 29

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 55
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

18 Personal Letters
2 Postcards
9 Public Comments Forms
______ Meetings
______ Phone Calls
______ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

26 Colorado
______ Utah
3 Other

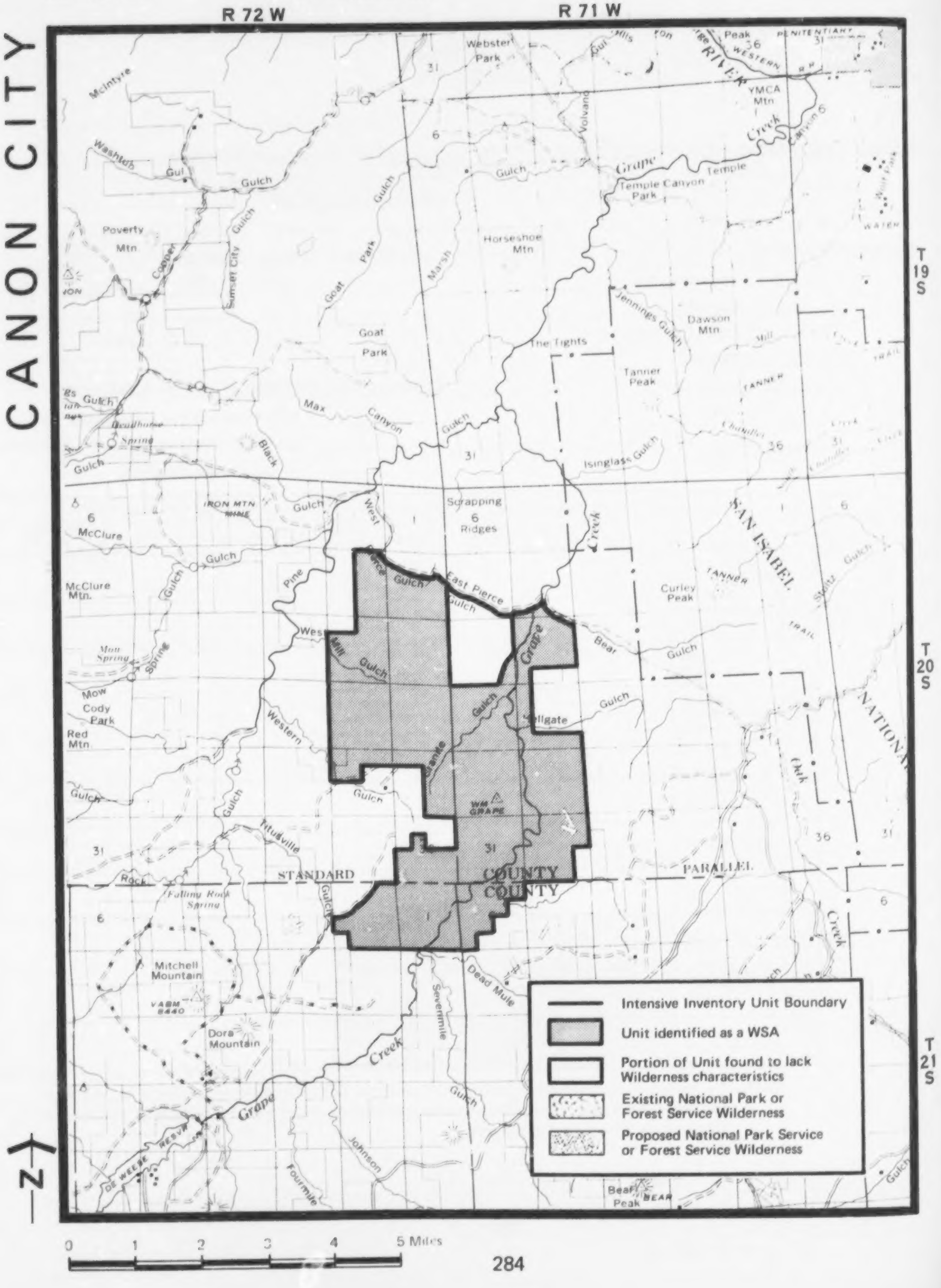
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

26 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
2 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	4			3		1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS						
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.		1		1		
	STATE GOVT.	1		1	2		
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	21	1		20		2
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	23		3
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	2		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	1		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-050-017 Upper Grape Creek


CANON CITY
R 72 W
R 71 W
T 19 S
T 20 S
T 21 S
N
Webster Park
McIntyre
Washtub Gul
Gulch
Poverty Mtn
Copper
Sunset City Gulch
Goat Park Gulch
Marsh
Horseshoe Mtn
Volvano
Grape Creek
Temple Canyon Park
Temple Canyon
YMCA Mtn
RIVER
WESTERN R.R.
PENITENTIARY
Peak
WATER
Jennings Gulch
Dawson Mtn
Goat Park
The Tights
Tanner Peak
TANNER
Mill
TRAIL
Max Canyon
Deadhorse Spring
Gulch
Black
Chandler
Isinglass Gulch
Scrapping Ridges
IRON MTN MINE
West
McClure
McClure Mtn.
Pine
East Pierce Gulch
Pierce Gulch
SAN ISABEL
Curley Peak
TANNER
Stultz Gulch
Bear Gulch
Mott Spring
Spring
West Mill Gulch
Grape
Mow Cody Park
Red Mtn
Western
Gulch
Hellgate
Yankee
NATIONAL
Oak
WM GRAPE
Titusville
STANDARD
PARALLEL
COUNTY
COUNTY
Rock
Falling Rock Spring
Mitchell Mountain
VABM 8440
Dora Mountain
Dead Mule
Sevenmile
Creek
Grape
DE WEESE RESVR
Johnson
Fourmile
Gulch
Bear Peak
BEAR
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

CO-050-017
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

UPPER GRAPE CREEK

CO-050-017

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): The unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): The unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 11,080 acres intensively inventoried
10,200 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendations.
10,200 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____Yes __X__No

GENERAL LOCATION: Approximately 10 miles southwest of Canon City (Fremont - Custer County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: A 11,080 acre unit was proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: No changes were made in the unit boundary.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: A 10,200 acre unit was recommended as a Wilderness Study Area after boundary adjustments were made to exclude mining activity along the border.

OWNERSHIP:

With the exception of two patented land inholdings totalling 30 acres in Secs. 29 and 32, T.20S., R.71W., all lands within the units boundary are administered by the BLM. These private lands were not included in the wilderness inventory. The unit is surrounded by a combination of public, private, and state lands.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The topography on the western part of the unit is hilly while the rest of the unit is very steep and rugged with mountainous topography. Primary access to the unit is along Grape Creek which runs from south to north through the unit. Vegetation, while generally sparse, is mostly pinyon and juniper with ponderosa pine and cottonwood frequently found along Grape Creek. Ground cover includes a variety of grasses, rabbitbrush, prickly pear cactus, and yucca.

Imprints of Man: An old mine site with tailings is in Sec. 31, T.20S., R.71W. The site is beginning to grow over, is screened by topography, and is not a major imprint.

Evaluation of Public Comments: One comment stated there were no man-made features in the unit and another comment stated the Upper Grape Creek area is essentially natural. These comments were in support of the BLM intensive inventory findings that the unit is in essentially a natural condition. One comment stated Upper Grape Creek is one of a very few "Front Range" streams which has not been exploited. Another stated the railroad is not detrimental to wilderness values, but a nice reminder of early history in the region.

Another comment stated that no indication is given of what activities or disturbances exist on state lands or private lands within the unit. They directly affect the naturalness, and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation within the unit. There are no state lands within this units boundaries. In accordance with BLM policy, no land which was not public land administered by the BLM was inventoried. While activities on private land within a unit may affect the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation, this must be extremely imposing, such as a coal-fired generating plant immediately adjacent to the unit. In this case, no activities on private land inholdings are so imposing.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Steep cliffs and mountains on either side of Grape Creek along with the mountains on all sides of East and West Mill Gulch and Granite Gulch screen those areas from sights and sounds outside the drainages. Vegetation is an important factor along Grape Creek where cottonwood and some ponderosa pine provide screening.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Two general comments stated the unit had outstanding opportunities for solitude. These were in agreement with the BLM intensive inventory which indicated the unit has outstanding opportunities for solitude. One letter stated that private land inholdings should be evaluated with respect to their opportunities for solitude. Since only BLM administered public land was inventoried no wilderness characteristics on private land were considered.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: The unit is accessible along Grape Creek, West Mill Gulch, and Granite Gulch where outstanding opportunities exist for hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding. This unit also has scenic and photographic opportunities from the mountains and ridges paralleling Grape Creek and from the unnamed mountain (8,100 feet) between East Mill Gulch and Granite Gulch. Overall outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation are found in the unit.

Evaluation of Public Comments: All comments received were in support of the BLM intensive inventory findings. One comment stated the unit had recreation opportunities and three comments stated outstanding opportunities for nature study, camping, and fishing are available in the unit.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: The railroad grade which is visible in a few locations along Grape Creek is a supplemental value because of its historical significance.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Two comments referred to the eagle and mountain lion habitat in the unit and two comments stated the railroad grade was historical. While the habitat is present for eagles and mountain lions, it is not of relative quantity and quality to be considered a supplemental value. The railroad grade along Grape Creek was not listed as a supplemental value in the BLM 2/1/80 recommendation. As a result of public comment and re-evaluation the BLM has determined that the railroad grade should be a supplemental value since it is of historical significance.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

The impact in this unit is minimal and well screened by vegetation or topography. No comments addressed reclamation potential.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING AS A WSA:

The unit has all the characteristics to qualify as a Wilderness Study Area. It is also over 5,000 acres (10,200 acres) of contiguous land which is entirely administered by the BLM. In addition, Unit 017 contains no major imprints of man. The major drainages providing access to the unit are Grape Creek, West and East Mill Gulch, and Granite Gulch. These drainages, in addition to other smaller unnamed drainages, are surrounded by steep and mountainous topography offering outstanding opportunities for solitude. The major creeks and gulches mentioned above also provide outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding. Outstanding scenic and photographic opportunities are available along the ridges and mountains paralleling Grape Creek. These opportunities are also available from the top of an unnamed mountain between East Mill Gulch and Granite Gulch which provides a view of the Sangre De Cristo Range and the general area to the southwest. All of the above mentioned characteristics combine to give this unit the qualities necessary to become a Wilderness Study Area.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

One comment stated that the state's interest in surface and mineral management must be protected from wilderness consideration. Another comment states there is "no access on east side of the unit". One letter stated that USFS and BLM should create cooperative management between lands. Five comments generally state the area has wilderness qualities and should become a wilderness area.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Upper Grape Creek
CO 050 017

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 14

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 15
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:
9 Personal Letters
1 Postcards
4 Public Comments Forms
____ Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

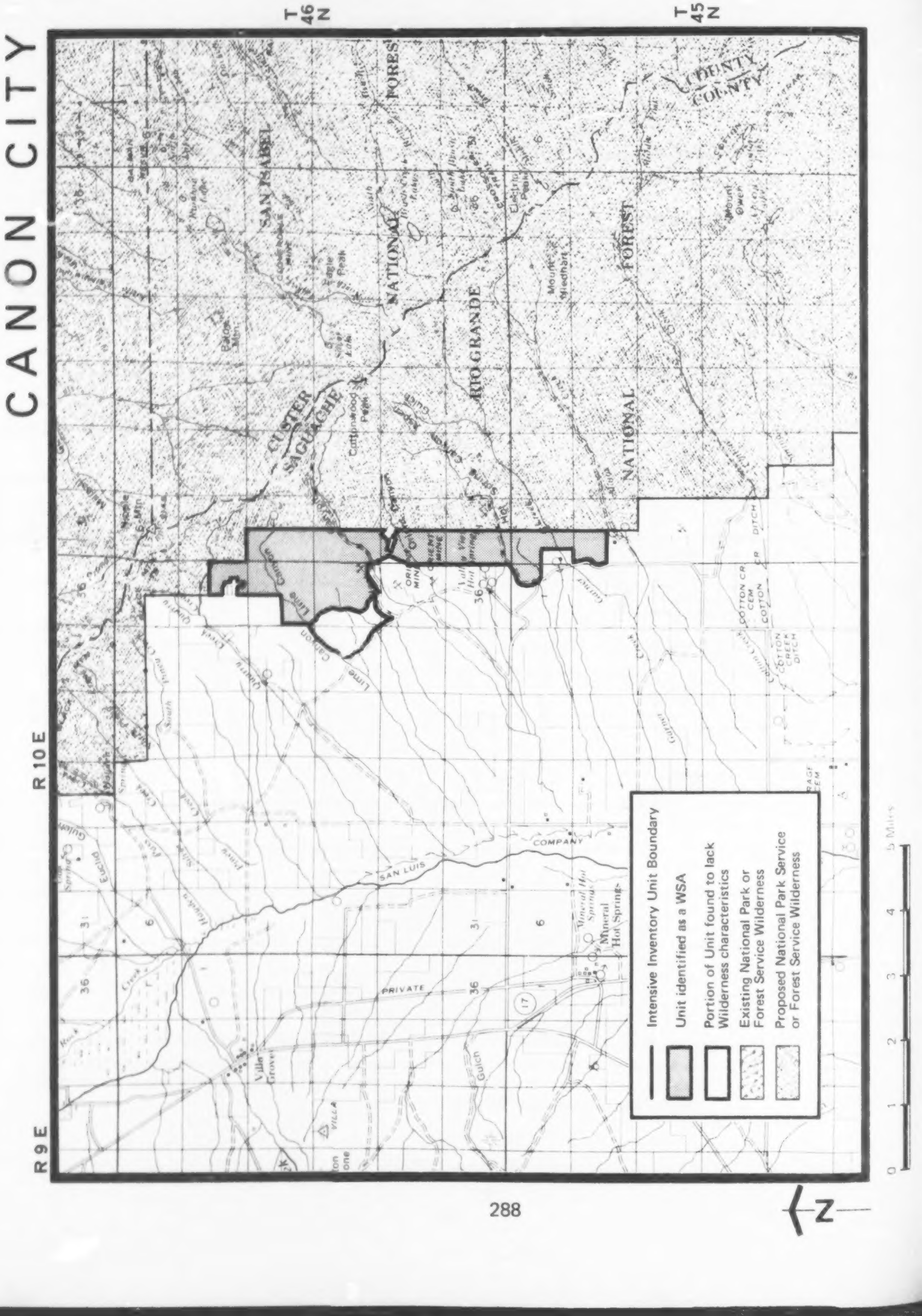
GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:
12 Colorado
____ Utah
2 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:
11 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
2 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	4			3		1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		1				1
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.			1	1		
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	7	1		8		
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA				10		1
	AGAINST WSA				1		1
	NO RECOMMENDATION				1		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-050-131 Black Canyon


CANON CITY
T 46 N
T 45 N
R 10 E
R 9 E
SAN ISABEL
NATIONAL FOREST
RIO GRANDE
NATIONAL FOREST
CUSTER
SAGUACHE
COUNTY
COUNTY
Cottonwood Peak
Mount Owen
Mount Niedhart
Electric Peak
Eagle Peak
Bushnell Lakes
Lime Canyon
Black Canyon
Orient Mine
Valley View Hot Springs
Villa Grove
VILLA
Mineral Hot Springs
SAN LUIS
COMPANY
PRIVATE
Gulch
Euclid
Cotton Creek Ditch
Cotton Cr Cem
17
36
31
6
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles
N

CO-050-131
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

BLACK CANYON

CO-050-131

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 2,739 acres intensively inventoried
2,300 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
2,300 acres identified as a WSA (Adjacent to USFS Rare II area #A2-266 recommended for Wilderness designation)

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____Yes X No

GENERAL LOCATION: Adjacent to Rio Grande National Forest, Northeastern edge of San Luis Valley (Saguache County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: A 2,739 acre unit adjacent to a USFS wilderness recommendation area was proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: No changes were recommended in the unit boundaries.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: The intensive inventory fieldwork resulted in two alterations. Approximately 430 acres were dropped from the most western portion to exclude the area where there was not a logical continuation of the USFS wilderness recommendation unit and which did not possess outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive, unconfined type of recreation. Approximately five acres were dropped from the area near Black Canyon because of a mining operation which was considered a major imprint of man. The mine created a disruption of the land contour and a change in the color pattern.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: This unit contains 2,300 acres of public land. Adjacent boundaries include private and Colorado State lands on the west and public lands with roads separating them from the main unit. The eastern boundary is adjacent to a USFS recommended wilderness area A2-266. The entire unit is covered by an active grazing lease and four geothermal leases. Within the boundaries there are six documented mining claims.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The Black Canyon unit consists of the sideslopes and lower mountains of the Sangre De Cristo Range. The upper portions of the unit are heavily forested with pine and fir while the lower reaches contain pinyon-juniper with aspen growing in the drainage bottoms.

Imprints of Man: The unit contains five ways which ascend the drainages of Lime Canyon, Black Canyon, Orient Canyon, Hot Springs Canyon, and Gardner Creek. They are considered minor imprints of man, due to their low visibility because of natural screening and weathering.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Four comments addressed the naturalness of the unit. Three comments stated that the unit was essentially natural and free of any major imprints of man. One comment stated that there is a fence which marks the boundary between this unit and adjacent USFS and private lands. Since the fence line mentioned by the latter commentator is on the boundary of the unit, it is not considered as impacting the naturalness of the unit. BLM's judgement is that the unit remains free of major works of man.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Outstanding opportunities for solitude exist on the slopes of the Sangre De Cristo Range. Intermittent streams have created a maze of valleys which provide screening for visitors in the area. Likewise, the vegetation in this portion of the unit creates a screening affect. The density of fir, pines and juniper can hide visitors from one another within a few yards. A visitor to this area would not be able to distinguish a break between this unit and the adjacent USFS wilderness recommandation area A2-266. This portion of the unit appears to be a logical continuation of the USFS topography and vegetation.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Two comments addressed opportunities for solitude within the unit. One comment supported BLM's judgement that opportunities existed because of its continuity with adjacent USFS lands and topographic and vegetative screening. One general comment stated that there were not opportunities present, but no specific reasons were given.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE, UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking and photography exists along the varied slopes of the Sangre De Cristo Range. The vegetation of this portion of the unit is dense but the understory is clear enough so that visitors can hike throughout the area. The valleys created by streams provide a stairstep approach to the upper reaches of the mountain slopes. Spotted throughout the area are vistas which overlook both the peaks of the mountain range and the vastness of the San Luis Valley.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Four comments were received which stated there were opportunities for primitive, unconfined recreation. Some writers described activities such as hiking and cross-country skiing which they have enjoyed in the unit while others described opportunities which they felt were available within the area.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The aspen within the drainage bottoms offer a bright contrast to the usual deep green when they turn to their fall colors. This affect attracts sightseers and photographers. One commentator addressed the high scenic value of the unit.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

No imprints of man within the unit are considered to have a significant impact on the unit's naturalness. One comment stated that if there were minor works of man within the unit that they would require only time and natural weathering to reclaim the impacts.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The Black Canyon unit is a visual continuation of the USFS wilderness recommendation area. The similarities between the contour of the land and the vegetation make this unit a logical extension. Combined with the USFS land the unit offers outstanding opportunities for both solitude and a primitive, unconfined type of recreation. The unit is also natural in character. Overall, the area meets the criteria required of a WSA.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

No comments were received addressing non-inventory information.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Black Canyon
CO 050 131

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 13

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 16
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

7 Personal Letters
1 Postcards
5 Public Comments Forms
____ Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

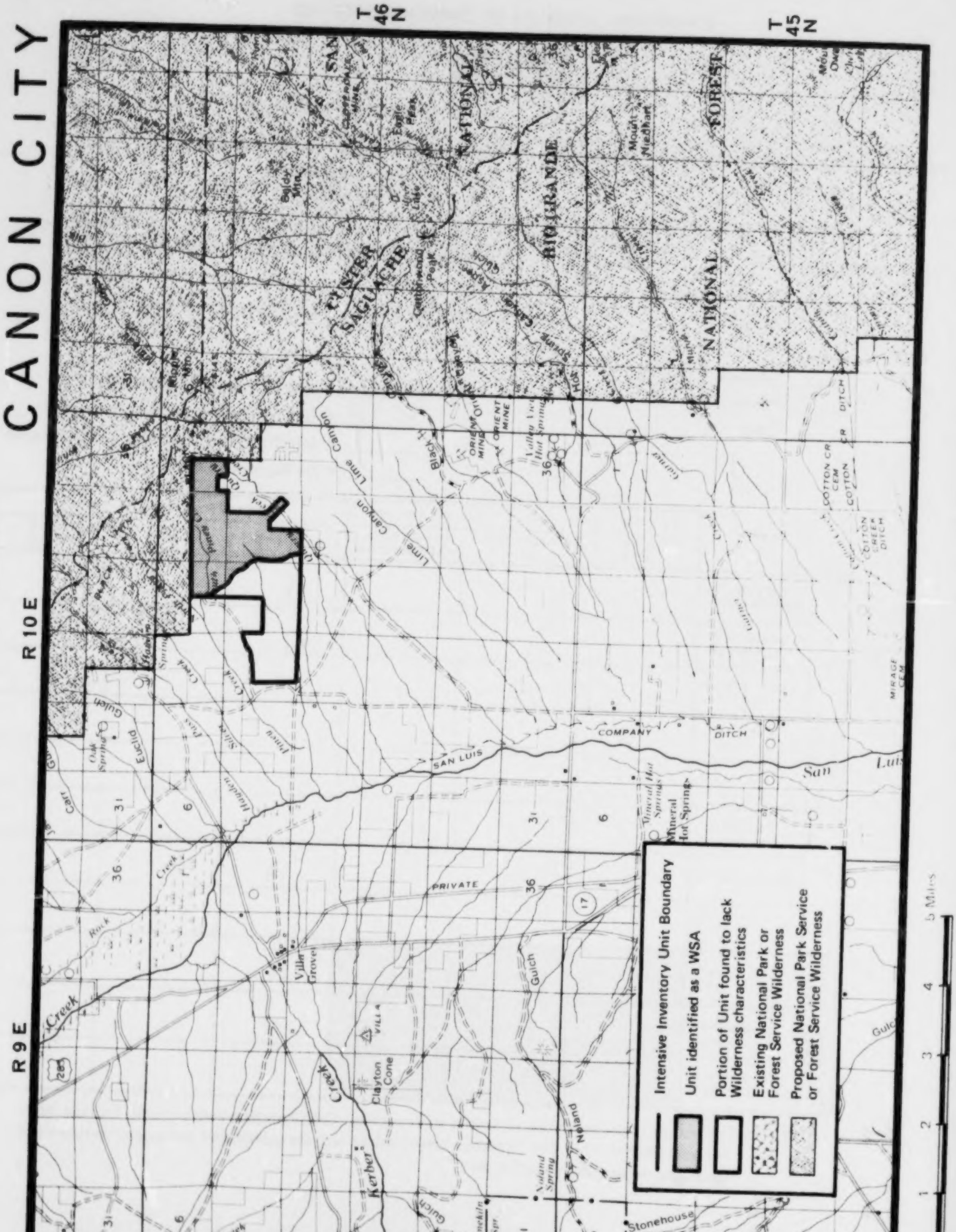
13 Colorado
____ Utah
____ Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

11 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
2 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
0 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOM-MENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRON-MENTAL GP	1			1		
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		1		1		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.	1			1		
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	9	1		10		
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	11		
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	2		
	NO RECOM-MENDATION	▨	▨	▨			

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.


CANON CITY
T 46 N
T 45 N
R 10 E
R 9 E
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles
RIO GRANDE NATIONAL FOREST
SAN ISABEL NATIONAL FOREST
CUSTER
SAGUACHE
Villa Grove
Clayton Cone
Kerber Creek
San Luis
COMPANY DITCH
PRIVATE
Mineral Hot Springs
Valley View Hot Springs
Orient Mine
Lime Canyon
Stonehouse
Noland

best copy available

CO-050-132B
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

SOUTH PINEY CREEK

CO-050-132B

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 1,587 acres intensively inventoried
870 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
870 acres identified as a WSA (Adjacent to USFS Rare II area #A2-266 recommended for Wilderness designation)

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____Yes X No

GENERAL LOCATION: Adjacent to Rio Grande National Forest, Northeastern edge of San Luis Valley (Saguache County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: A 1,587 acre unit adjacent to a USFS wilderness recommendation area was proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: No changes were recommended in the unit boundaries.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: Three boundary adjustments were made during the intensive inventory. Two were slight modifications which exclude mining activities on the western boundary. Both were considered major imprints of man because they created a change in the contour and color of the natural landscape. The third was made to exclude a portion along the western boundary. This area is not a visually logical continuation of the USFS wilderness recommendation unit. This portion also lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive, unconfined type of recreation. Approximately 720 acres were deleted during the intensive inventory.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: The South Piney Creek unit contains 870 acres of public land administered by the BLM. It is located east of Villa Grove and adjacent to USFS wilderness recommendation area A2-266. It is covered by an active grazing lease and several unpatented mining claims are located within its boundaries.

NATURALNESS:

Area Description: This unit consists of west facing slopes of the Sangre De Cristo Range. One peak of the mountain range reaches to 11,062 feet. The vegetation is a blend of pine, juniper and fir in the upper reaches of the unit and in the stream valleys. The lower slopes, before they meet the valley floor, are covered by juniper and pine on the north sides with grasses and shrubs on the south.

Imprints of Man: A way crosses the unit in the east along the Quarry Creek. This way is used by 4-wheel drive trucks, horse riders and hikers trying to reach the Black Mountain Trail higher in the Sangre De Cristo Range. This way is the only sign of man remaining in the boundaries. It is considered a minor imprint of man because it remains hidden due to the heavy vegetation around it and weathering which blended it into the natural colors of the environment.

Evaluation of Public Comments: One comment stated that this unit was essentially natural. No other comments addressed this issue.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Outstanding opportunities for solitude exist on the slopes of the Sangre De Cristo Range. Intermittent streams have created a maze of valleys, which provide screening for visitors in the area. Likewise, the vegetation in this portion of the unit creates a screening effect. The density of fir, pines and juniper can hide visitors from one another within a few yards. A visitor to this area would not be able to distinguish a break between this unit and the adjacent USFS wilderness recommendation area A2-266. This portion of the unit appears to be a logical continuation of the USFS area because of the similarities of the vegetation and terrain.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Only one comment addressed this issue. The comment stated that outstanding opportunities were present because of the dense vegetation and contoured gulleys in the unit.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking and photography exists along the varied slopes of the Sangre De Cristo Range. The vegetation of this portion of the unit is dense but the understory is clear enough so that visitors can hike throughout the area. The valleys created by streams provide a stairstep approach to the upper reaches of the mountain slopes. Spotted throughout the area are vistas which overlook both the peaks of the mountain range and the vastness of the San Luis Valley.

Evaluation of Public Comments: One comment stated that this unit offered outstanding opportunities for primitive, unconfined recreation because it offered hiking through the stream beds to higher elevations within the Sangre De Cristo Range.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

No supplemental values are noted in the unit. Two comments addressed supplemental values. One stated the scenic vistas from the unit were excellent while the other stated that this unit and others along the Sangre De Cristo Range offered cross-country access to the Great Sand Dunes Wilderness Area. Both comments will be evaluated during the study phase of the wilderness review process.

POSSIBILITY OF AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

The way leading through the south eastern portion of the unit is a minor imprint of man and is rehabilitating naturally. One comment stated that natural processes could reclaim any minor works of man that might be within the unit.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The South Piney Creek Unit appears to be in a natural condition. The portion of the unit which is adjacent to the USFS wilderness recommendation area is visually a logical extension of this area. In conjunction with the contiguous USFS lands, the unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation. Overall, the unit meets the criteria required for a WSA.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are ot a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

One comment stated that there were active mines near Hayden Pass and that a two-mile-wide corridor should be designated along the Hayden Pass road. The BLM policy is to not create corridors during the inventory stage. The mines mentioned by the commentator lie outside the units boundary or private land. They do not affect the naturalness of this unit.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

South Piney Creek
CO 050 132B

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 9

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 14
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

6 Personal Letters
1 Postcards
2 Public Comments Forms
____ Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

9 Colorado
____ Utah
____ Other

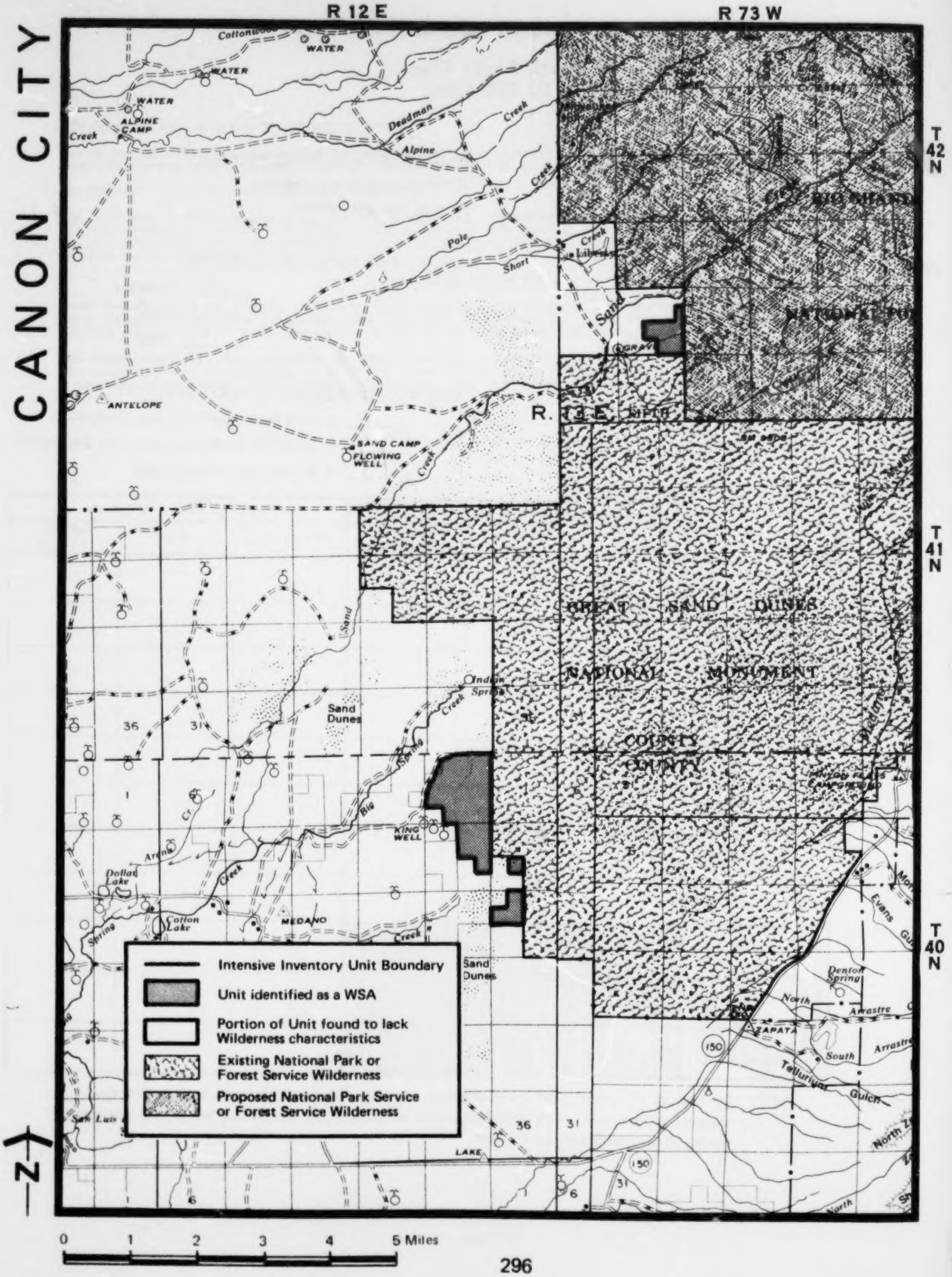
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

7 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
2 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
____ # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	1			1		
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		1		1		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.	1			1		
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	5	1		6		
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	7		
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	2		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨			

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-050-135 Sand Castle


CANON CITY
R 12 E
R 73 W
T 42 N
T 41 N
T 40 N
R. 13 E.
Cottonwood
WATER
ALPINE CAMP
Creek
Deadman
Alpine
Pole
Short
Sand
GRAY
ANTELOPE
SAND CAMP
FLOWING WELL
GREAT SAND DUNES NATIONAL MONUMENT
COUNTY
Sand Dunes
Indian Spring
Big Spring Creek
KING WELL
Arena Cr.
Dollar Lake
Cotton Lake
MEDANO
Spring
Denton Spring
North Arrastre
ZAPATA
South Arrastre
Telluride Gulch
Evans Gulch
150
31
36
1
6
LAKE
San Luis
N
0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness

SAND CASTLE

CO-050-135

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 1,644 acres intensively inventoried
1,644 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
1,644 acres identified as a Wilderness Study Area (Adjacent to the Great Sand Dunes Wilderness Area)

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____Yes X No

GENERAL LOCATION: Adjacent to Great Sand Dunes National Monument-4 Small Tracts (Alamosa County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: Three parcels of land totalling 1,424 acres which are adjacent to the Great Sand Dunes Wilderness Area were recommended for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: As a result of public comment a fourth parcel of land was added to the unit. A total of 1,644 acres were intensively inventoried.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: The entire 1,644 acres were recommended as a Wilderness Study Area.

OWNERSHIP:

This unit is composed of four small parcels of public land administered by the BLM. A parcel of public land of 220 acres was added to this unit during the initial inventory. No boundary adjustments were made during the intensive inventory. The total acreage is now 1,644 acres. The parcels are covered by an active grazing lease. All parcels of this unit are contiguous with the Great Sand Dunes Wilderness Area (GSDWA). Other adjacent lands are composed of mixed private and public lands.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The three parcels contiguous with the GSDWA on the west are obvious continuations of the dune area. Like the wilderness area, these parcels are made up of sandy soils with typical low growing dune vegetation such as Indian rice grass and sand drop seed. The largest parcel in section two, contains an active sand dune. The 4th parcel, adjacent to the northern boundary, is located on the side slopes of the Sangre De Cristo Range. The parcel is cut by two intermittent streams which have carved valleys. The vegetation is the same as the mountain range and the northern portion of the GSDWA. The conifers and pines of this area are in contrast to the low growing brush and grass species found in the dune area.

Imprints of Man: Within the parcels of this unit are two imprints of man. One is a way which runs approximately parallel to the eastern boundary in section two. It is a two wheel rut which is kept open soley by the passage of vehicles. The second imprint of man is a fence line which parrallels the northern border. The blowing sands have covered portions of the fence. The fence and the way are considered minor imprints of man.

Evaluation of Public Comment: One comment stated that the parcels of this unit are in a natural condition. No comments were received which addressed the way or fence line within the unit.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are found in the unit. The parcels of this unit are a natural and logical extension of the GSDWA because of the similarities of the soils, terrain and vegetation. The opportunities for solitude are inherent in their addition to the GSDWA. The active dunes within the unit offer some screening while the great expanse of land surrounding the major collection of dunes in the center of the GSDWA offer solitude because of its vastness.

Evaluation of Public Comments: One comment stated that since the four parcels of this unit were on the outer periphery of the Great Sand Dunes Wilderness Area they would offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. No other comments were received which addressed this issue.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation are found in the unit. Hiking, horseback riding, and photography are common pursuits along the periphery area of the GSDWA. Since the public lands are contiguous in this area, and they are a logical extension because of the similarities of terrain and vegetation, these same pursuits could extend onto the public lands.

Evaluation of Public Comments: One comment addressed this issue. The comment listed hiking, horseback riding, and photography as being available within the parcels of this unit.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The geologic processes which created the sand dunes within the Great Sand Dunes Wilderness Area is a major tourist attraction in the San Luis Valley. One comment stated that they should be preserved.

POSSIBILITY OF RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

Generally, the imprints of man remaining in the unit, a single way and a fenceline, are returning to a substantially unnoticeable condition by blowing sand. One comment stated that minor imprints of man within the unit are being reclaimed through natural processes.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The parcels of this unit are adjacent to the Great Sand Dunes Wilderness Area. They are visually a continuation of the GSDWA because they are made up of the same type of soils, terrain, and vegetation. The parcels retain their natural appearance and contain outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive, unconfined type of recreation in conjunction with the GSDWA.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

Two comments addressed non-inventory concerns. One stated that Colorado mineral rights bordered this unit. The WSA status of this unit would not interfere with this right. The other comment stated that the Closed Basin Project could have a future, minor impact on the water table of the unit. This impact does not have an effect on the current inventory.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Sand Castle
CO 050 135

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 9

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 13
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

6 Personal Letters
1 Postcards
2 Public Comments Forms
____ Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

7 Colorado
____ Utah
2 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

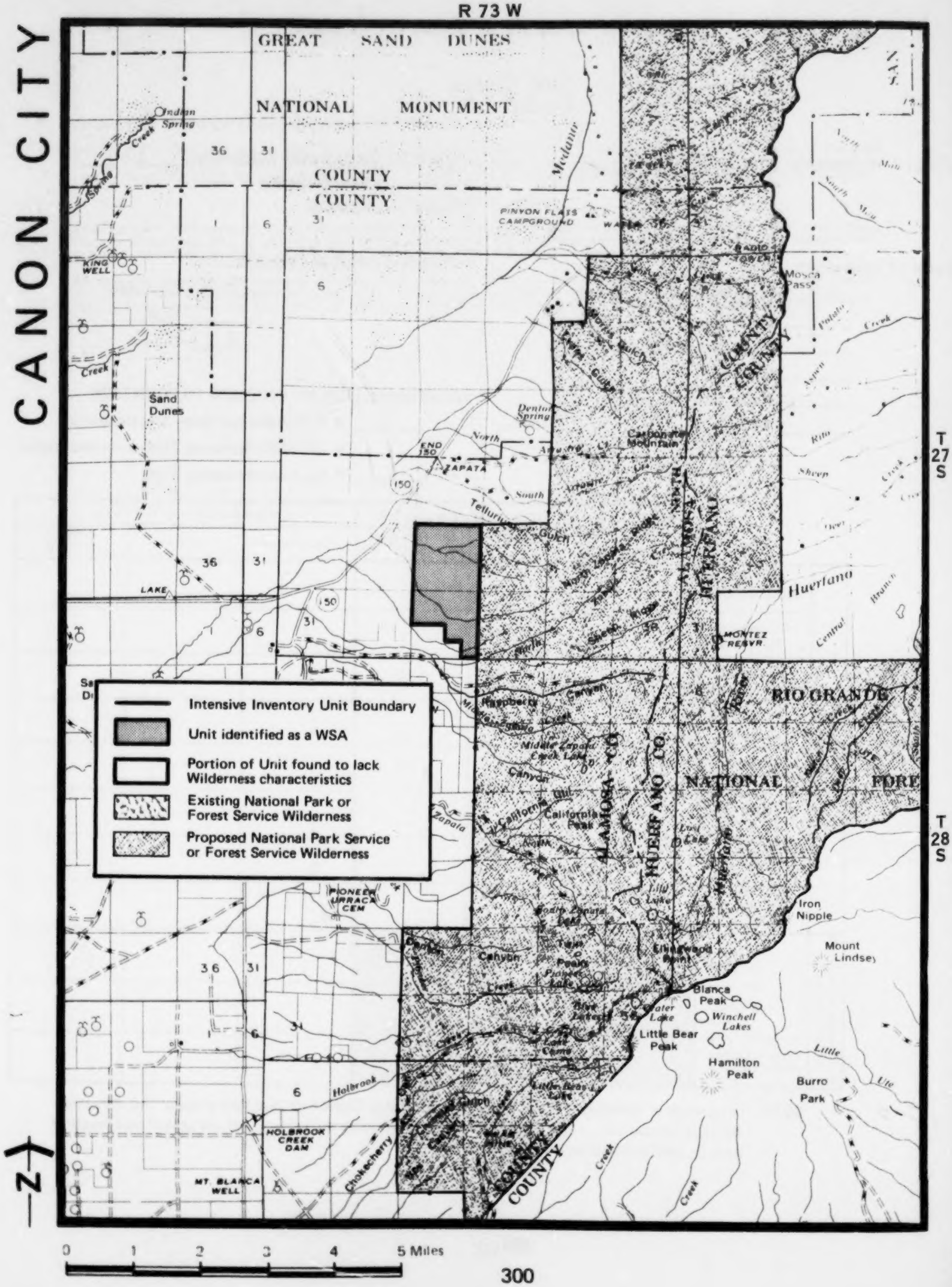
7 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
0 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
2 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.						
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS						
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.	1			1		
	STATE GOVT.			1	1		
	FEDERAL GOVT.			1	1		
	INDIVIDUAL	6			6		
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	6		1
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨			
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	1		1

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-050-137 Papa Keal

CANON CITY


R 73 W
GREAT SAND DUNES NATIONAL MONUMENT
COUNTY
COUNTY
Indian Spring
Creek
Medano
PINYON FLATS CAMPGROUND
KING WELL
Sand Dunes
Mosca Pass
Denton Spring
Carbonate Mountain
North
South
END 150
ZAPATA
150
Telluride
Gulch
LAKE
ALAMOSA
HUERFANO
Huerfano
Branch
Central
MONTEZ RESVR.
RIO GRANDE
NATIONAL
FORE
Middle Zapata Creek Lake
Canyon
California Gulch
California Peak
ALAMOSA CO.
HUERFANO CO.
Lost Lake
Lily Lake
Zapata
PIONEER URRACA CEM
Iron Nipple
Mount Lindsey
Ellingwood Point
Blanca Peak
Winchell Lakes
Little Bear Peak
Hamilton Peak
Burro Park
Little
Ute
Holbrook
HOLBROOK CREEK DAM
Chokecherry
MT. BLANCA WELL
Little Bear Lake
COUNTY
COUNTY
Creek
SAN
T 27 S
T 28 S
36
31
1
6
N
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness

CO-050-137
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

PAPA KEAL

CO-050-137

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2-1-80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

FINAL WSA DECISION (11-80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 1,020 acres intensively inventoried
1,020 acres proposed as WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
1,020 acres identified as a WSA (Adjacent to USFS Rare II area #A2-266 recommended for wilderness designation)

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____ Yes X No

GENERAL LOCATION: Adjacent to Rio Grande National Forest (Alamosa County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: A 1,020 acre unit adjacent to a USFS wilderness recommendation area was proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: No changes were recommended in the unit boundaries.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: The entire 1,020 acres were recommended as a Wilderness Study Area.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: The Papa Keal unit contains 1,020 acres of public land administered by the BLM, adjacent to a USFS RARE II wilderness recommendation area (A2-266). There have been no changes made in the unit boundaries either during the initial inventory or the intensive inventory. The Papa Keal unit is covered by an active grazing lease. Land outside the unit boundaries is either Colorado State or private lands.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The Papa Keal unit consists of the western facing sideslopes of the lower portion of the Sangre De Cristo Range. The sideslopes lead to lightly rolling land at the base of the mountain. The sideslopes are cut by intermittent streams which originate higher up in the RARE II portion of the Sangre De Cristo Range. The streams in this area create many smaller valleys as they flow to the rolling land at the base. As they reach this portion of the unit many of them combine to form shallow beds. The vegetation on the sideslopes is a transition area from the conifer of the upper Sangre De Cristo Range to the juniper-pine in the lower elevations. The rolling lands at the base contain rabbitbrush and grass species which are found throughout the San Luis Valley floor.

Imprints of Man: An old fence runs through the middle of this unit. It is in disrepair and has fallen over in some places. Another fence runs along the border between the USFS and public lands. This fence is also in desrepair. These fences are wire strand and wood pole fences which blends into the existing color of their surroundings. In the northwest corner of section 28 there is an old log cabin which has been severly damaged by the weather. Because of its log construction it visually fits into the environment. East of this cabin an old stock water tank lies half buried through natural processes. Because of the surrounding trees it can be seen from only a few yards away. The remainder of the unit appears to be in a natural condition without imprints of man.

Evaluation of Public Comments: One comment stated that the unit is essentially natural.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are found in the unit. The majority of the Papa Keal unit consists of the sideslopes of the foothills of the Sangre De Cristo Range. This portion of the unit is covered by dense pinyon-juniper and pine which is a continuation of the forest type found on the upper reaches of this range. Because of this type of vegetation, the contours of the land and the boundaries being adjacent to the USFS wilderness recommendation area, opportunities for solitude abound. The affect of the land contours and vegetation create areas where visitors can be screened from one another within a very few yards. The size of the unit in conjunction with the USFS area provides many thousands of acres which could contain visitors in privacy. The lower portion of the unit is mostly covered by a very dense growth of pinyon-juniper which also provides an adequate cover for screening visitors.

Evaluation of Public Comments: One comment stated that the vegetative cover within the unit offered outstanding opportunities for solitude.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation are found in the unit. While the forest cover of this unit is dense, the understory is clear enough to provide unimpeded hiking opportunities. A visitor can wander throughout the hillsides. The dry streambeds also offer a "stair stepped" approach to the higher reaches of the range. Spotted throughout this area there are overlooks to view and photograph the San Luis Valley or the peaks of the Sangre De Cristo Range. Since this unit is adjacent to USFS wilderness recommendation area the combined acreage is such that backpackers/hikers can wander throughout the Sangre De Cristo Range for days without retracing their route.

Evaluation of Public Comments: One comment stated that unconfined recreation could be had in the draws and streambeds which lead to the higher reaches of the Sangre De Cristo Range.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

No supplemental values are noted in the unit. No comments were received which addressed supplemental values.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

The two fence lines, water trough and fallen-down log cabin are considered minor impacts of man. They all can be returned to a substantially unnoticeable condition by either natural processes or by hand labor. One comment stated that what small imprints of man there were in the unit could be removed by hand labor or left to natural means through time.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The slopes of this unit are adjacent to and are a logical extension at the USFS wilderness recommendation area. There are no natural breaks between the two areas. An observer could not distinguish where the USFS and BLM boundary is because of the similarities of the general terrain and the vegetation. With this contiguity with the proposed wilderness area, the unit does offer outstanding opportunities for primitive, unconfined recreation and solitude. The unit meets all of the criteria for WSA designation.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

One comment stated that State of Colorado lands with state mineral reserves borders this unit. Adjacent lands will not be affected by the WSA status of this unit.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Papa Keal
CO 050 137

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 8

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 9
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

6 Personal Letters
____ Postcards
2 Public Comments Forms
____ Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

7 Colorado
____ Utah
1 Other

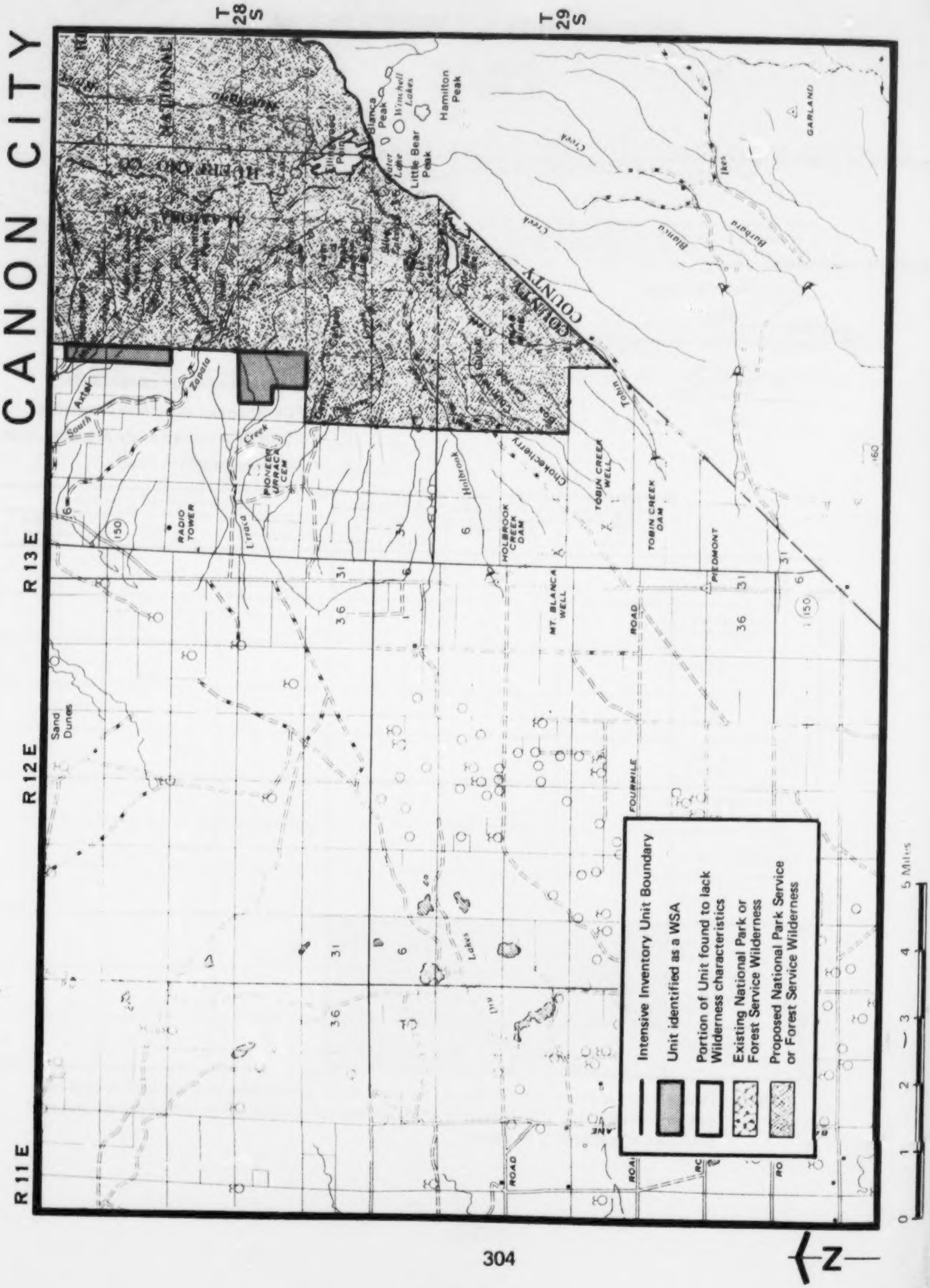
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

7 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
0 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	1			1		
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS						
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.			1	1		
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	6			5		1
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	6		1
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨			
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	1		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-050-139B Zapata Creek


CANON CITY
R 11 E
R 12 E
R 13 E
T 28 S
T 29 S
Sand Dunes
Blanca Peak
Winchell Lakes
Little Bear Peak
Hamilton Peak
GARLAND
COSTILLA COUNTY
Zapata
South
RADIO TOWER
Urraca Creek
PIONEER URRACA CEM
Holbrook
HOLBROOK CREEK DAM
MT. BLANCA WELL
Chokecherry
TOBIN CREEK WELL
TOBIN CREEK DAM
Tobin
PIEDMONT
FOURMILE
ROAD
Lakes
150
160
31
36
6
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles
N

CO-050-139B
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

ZAPATA CREEK

CO-050-139B

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area .

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 720 acres intensively inventoried
720 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
720 acres identified as a WSA (Adjacent to USFS Rare II area #A2-266 recommended for Wilderness designation)

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____Yes __X__No

GENERAL LOCATION: Adjacent to Rio Grande National Forest (Alamosa County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: A 720 acre unit adjacent to a USFS wilderness recommendation area was proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: The 720 acres were recommended for intensive inventory.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: The entire 720 acres was recommended as a Wilderness Study Area.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: This unit consists of two parcels of land administered by the BLM. One is 320 acres, the other 400 acres. No boundary adjustments were made in the intensive inventory. Both units are contiguous with a USFS wilderness recommendation area number A2-266. They are bordered on the west by private lands. This unit is covered by an active grazing lease.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The two parcels of this unit are located on the sideslopes of the Sangre De Cristo Range. They are steep with the major valleys of Urraca and Zapata Creeks and Raspberry Canyon cutting through them. Intermittent streams created the valleys. The vegetation on the hillsides is mixed conifer, pine and pinyon with low growing brush species intermixed. To an observer it would not be possible to tell where the USFS managed lands end and the public land begin because of the similarities of the vegetation and the contour of the land. It is visually one unit.

Imprints of Man: The southern parcel of this unit shows no imprints of man. It appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature. The northern unit contains a way in Raspberry Canyon used by 4-wheel drive vehicles as an access route into the higher elevations of the Sangre De Cristo Range. This way is primarily a two wheel rut which is kept open soley by the passage of vehicles. The way is deteriorating through natural processes. It is visible only from a short distance on either side of the impact because of the surroundng vegetation and terrain. The remainder of the unit appears to be in a natural state.

Evaluation of Public Comments: One comment stated that the unit is essentially natural.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: These two parcels, while small in size, contain a varied topography that combined with the vegetation and adjacent USFS land, which is a recommended wilderness area, offers outstanding opportunities for visitors to experience solitude. The dense pinyon-juniper and other vegetation provides screening within a few hundred feet. The valleys created by the stream twist and turn to create a screening effect. Because of these features, outstanding opportunities for solitude are present.

Evaluation of Public Comments: One comment stated that the vegetative cover within the unit offered outstanding opportunities for solitude.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: The same features which provide opportunities for solitude also offer outstanding recreation opportunities. Visitors can hike the dry stream beds to the higher elevations of the Sangre De Cristo Range which is a USFS RARE II wilderness study area. Along the hike, visitors are offered spectacular views from points which overlook the San Luis Valley or the peaks of the range they are hiking.

Evaluation of Public Comments: One comment stated that unconfined recreation could be had in the draws and streambeds which lead to the higher reaches of the Sangre De Cristo Range.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The spring and fall colors of the Sangre De Cristo Range are known throughout Colorado. No comments were received which addressed supplemental values.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

The way running through the northern parcel of this unit is a minor imprint of man, and is substantially unnoticeable. One comment stated that what small imprints of man there were in the unit they could be removed by hand labor or left to natural means through time.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The two parcels of this unit are contiguous with USFS wilderness recommendation area number A2-266. The parcels offer a logical extension of this boundary. The vegetation within this unit is the same as that of the USFS lands while the contour of the lands is an extension of the higher slopes of the Sangre De Cristo Range. The only work of man within the unit is a way along the northern parcel which is rehabilitating naturally and is considered a minor impact. The two parcels of this unit could be considered to retain its primeval character. Overall, the unit meets the criteria of a WSA.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

One comment stated that State of Colorado lands with state mineral reserves borders this unit. Adjacent lands will not be affected by the WSA status of this unit.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Zapata Creek
CO 050 139B

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 9

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 13
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

7 Personal Letters
___ Postcards
2 Public Comments Forms
___ Meetings
___ Phone Calls
___ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

8 Colorado
___ Utah
1 Other

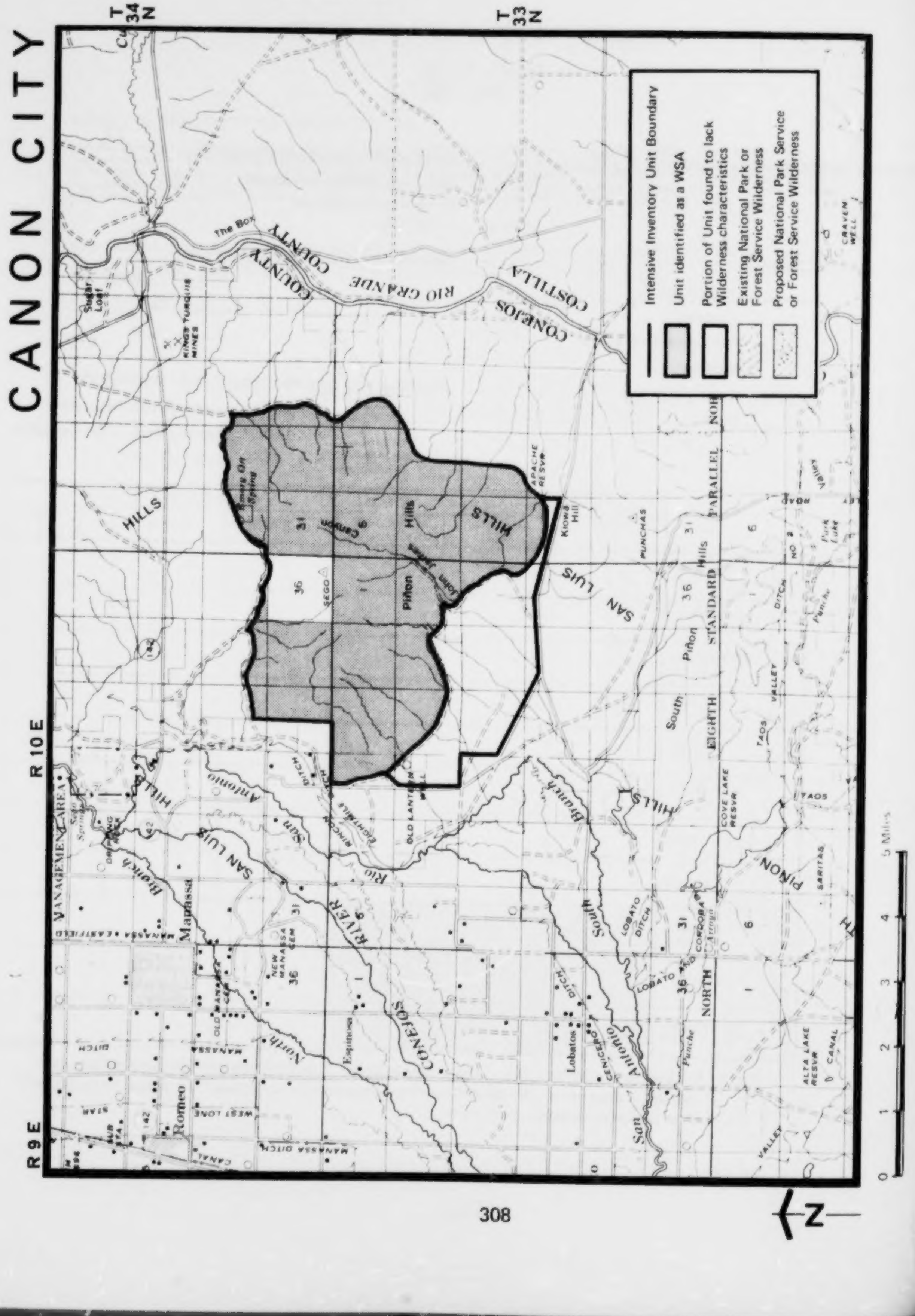
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

8 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
___ # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	1			1		
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS						
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.			1	1		
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	7			6		1
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	7		1
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨			
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	1		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-050-141 San Luis Hills


CANON CITY
T 34 N
T 33 N
R 10 E
R 9E
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
RIO GRANDE
COUNTY
CONEJOS
COSTILLA
The Box
KINGS TURQUOIS MINES
HILLS
Pinon Hills
SAN LUIS
Kiowa Hill
APACHE RESVR
PUNCHAS
STANDARD PARALLEL NORTH
EIGHTH
SEGO
OLD LANTERN WELL
Manassa
Romeo
Lobatos
Espinosa
CONEJOS RIVER
San Antonio
San Luis
COVE LAKE RESVR
ALTA LAKE RESVR
PINON
TAOS VALLEY
0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles
N

CO-050-141
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

SAN LUIS HILLS

CO-050-141

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 12,514 acres intensively inventoried
8,440 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
10,240 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: X Yes ____ No

Additions 1,800 acres Deletions 0 acres
(as a result of public comments)

GENERAL LOCATION: Northeast of Antonito (Conejos County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: A 10,214 acre unit was proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: As a result of public comment and a field check a 12,514 acre unit was intensively inventoried.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: The intensive inventory revealed many minor works of man within the unit. The accumulative effects caused a border change which resulted in 8,440 acres being recommended as a Wilderness Study Area.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: Within the unit a Colorado State section is located near the northern border. All other lands are public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The unit is covered by active grazing leases with unpatented mining claims occurring throughout the unit with a heavy concentration in the northeast corner. The unit is surrounded by a mixture of private, state, and public lands.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The San Luis Hills unit is located in the southeast corner of the San Luis Valley. The unit consists of a series of interconnected hills which rise a 1,000 feet above the surrounding valley floor. They are covered by low growing rabbit and bitterbrush with heavy concentrations of pinyon/juniper stands scattered throughout the unit.

Imprints of Man: The northeast corner contains two ways which wind towards each other on one of the highest peaks. They both are two-wheel tracks and have been made impassable in areas because of erosion. Also in this general vicinity there are three check dams on an intermittent stream which parallels the northern border. The ways are deteriorating through time while the dams are covered by natural grasses. The western area contains several small check dams, fence lines, and a way leading to a mining exploration area. Because of the terrain in this area each of these minor imprints of man are not visible beyond a few yards.

The greatest concentration of impacts of man occurs in the southwest corner. This area contains numerous ways, thirteen stockwater tanks, a water pump in a tin shed (10' x 15' x 9') with a water holding tank (6' x 12') and stock watering tanks. Also, there are four fence lines, and a way leading to a mineral exploration area. Individually these minor imprints of man would not greatly detract from the naturalness of this portion of the unit. Collectively however, there is not any place that a visitor can be that works of man are not clearly evident. The mineral exploration area and the metal shed are visible throughout this location creating a noticeable contrast in color. One of the ways which occurs in this portion of the unit leads into John James Canyon. It is a two-wheel track which deteriorates further into the canyon as it extends. It leads to two small check dams which have grown over with native vegetation and are visible only from a few yards away. Except for the southwest corner, all imprints of man are considered minor. The boundary along the southwest corner has been adjusted to exclude the accumulative effects of man. (See Inventory History for boundary adjustments made following the intensive inventory field work.)

Evaluation of Public Comments: One general comment stated that this was one of the last large parcels of land in the San Luis Valley that retains a natural appearance. One other general comment requested a boundary extension on the south. Two specific comments addressed the same issue. They included maps which gave the boundary extensions. The proposed boundary extension would include a portion of a fence line, water troughs, and a short "way". BLM has reviewed the comments and agreed with their reasoning. The extension will be made resulting in an additional 1800 acres. Three additional comments addressed naturalness. All three supported the BLM's evaluation that the unit is essentially natural with only minor imprints of man remaining. The boundary adjustments discussed will include only minor works of man which will be substantially unnoticeable.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are present within the boundaries of this unit. The contouring created by the twisting valleys, such as John James and others, provide areas where visitors to the unit can be screened from one another. Opportunities for solitude also exist within the gulleys along the eastern boundary. Unlike the slopes of the other boundaries, this area has created deep run-off drainages which wind their way towards the Rio Grande River. These gulleys, which vary from 4 to 20 feet, are deep enough to screen visitors from one another because of their depth and numbers.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Seven comments supported the BLM's evaluation that outstanding opportunities for solitude were present within the unit. Most noted the valleys, vegetation, and other contours which provides screening. No comments were received which opposed this evaluation.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: The diversity of topography offers horseback riding, hiking, and packpacking. Numerous valleys create avenues which lead throughout the units. These routes provide many miles of hiking opportunities. The low growing vegetation makes it possible to wander throughout the area. While the north has steep cliffs, the slopes of the rest of the unit are such that they offer access to the highest points and an interesting climb because of the views.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Two comments addressed this issue. Both stated that opportunities were present. They listed such activities as hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, and photography. Both commenters have spent time in the unit. These comments agree with BLM's evaluation of the unit.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: BLM's analysis stated that the unit did not contain supplimental values. Because of public comment BLM will include the geology of the unit as a supplemental value. Archeological and cultural resources will be examined to determine their significance.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eight comments stated there were supplemental values in this unit. Most comments addressed the geology of the unit as being of high interest. One comment mentioned possible cultural resources and raptor bird sightings.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

After intensive inventory boundary adjustments, no imprints of man within the unit are considered to have a significant impact on the units naturalness. Two general comments stated that what few minor impacts of man that were within the boundaries would rehabilitate naturally or through minimal hand labor.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The San Luis Hills unit is a large tract of pubic land which appears to be in a natural state with only minor works of man remaining within the boundaries. The public agreed with BLM's evaluation that opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation were available and could be considered "outstanding". Additional information concerning supplemental values was provided by the public which will be incorporated during the study phase of the wilderness review. Overall, the unit meets the criteria required for WSA status.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideraton in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

BLM received one comment which stated there is a high metallic mineral potential within the unit. As stated, this information will be saved for the study phase of the wilderness review process.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

San Luis Hills
CO 050 141

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 14

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 17
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:
11 Personal Letters
___ Postcards
3 Public Comments Forms
___ Meetings
___ Phone Calls
___ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:
12 Colorado
___ Utah
2 Other

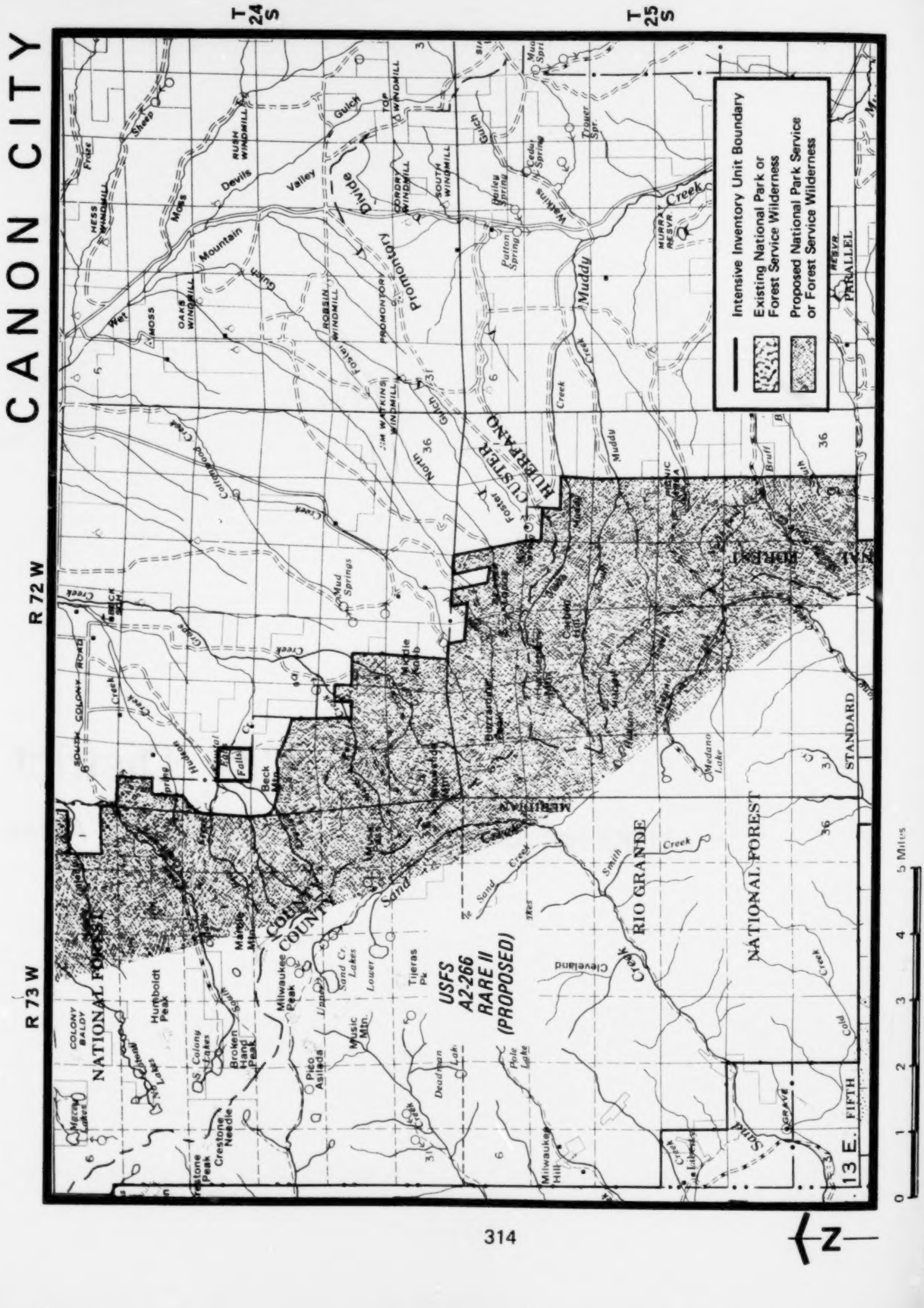
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:
13 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
___ # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	4			3		1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS						
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	9	1		9		1
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	12		1
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨			
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	1		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

Canon City District

Units not identified as Wilderness Study Areas


CANON CITY
T 24 S
T 25 S
R 72 W
R 73 W
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
USFS A2-266 RARE II (PROPOSED)
Crystal Falls
NATIONAL FOREST
RIO GRANDE
CUSTER
HUERFANO
CUSTER COUNTY
SAGUACHE COUNTY
MERIDIAN
STANDARD PARALLEL
FIFTH
13 E.
Promontory Divide
Devils Mountain
Valley Gulch
Muddy Creek
Humboldt Peak
Crestone Needle
Crestone Peak
Broken Hand Peak
Milwaukee Peak
Music Mtn.
Pico Asilado
Tijeras Pk
Marble Mtn.
Beck Mtn.
Medano Lake
Mud Springs
Needle Knob
SOUTH COLONY ROAD
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles
N

CO-050-033
Area Not Identified as
a Wilderness Study Area

CRYSTAL FALLS

CO-050-033

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area. This 160 acre unit was intensively inventoriedfor its wilderness characteristics because it was contiguous with land being considered for wilderness potential by the U.S. Forest. The Forest Service has recently redrawn their boundary. As a result the Crystal Falls unit is no longer contiguous to land managed by another agency which has been formally determined to have wilderness or potential wilderness values nor is the unit over 5,000 acres.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 160 acres intensively inventoried
160 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
0 acres indentified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____ Yes X No

GENERAL LOCATION: 12 miles south of Westcliff (Custer County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: A 160 acre unit adjacent to a U.S. Forest Service wilderness recommendation area was proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: No changes were made in the unit boundary.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: No changes were made in the unit boundary.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: This unit contains 160 acres of BLM administered public land. Land contiguous to this unit on the north and east is in private ownership and used for grazing. Contiguous U.S. Forest Service land on the south and west was recommended to become a Wilderness Area, but has recently been dropped from consideration.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: Unit 033 is located in the foothills of the Sangre De Cristo Mountain Range. The topography is steep and sloping up to the west with Crystal Falls Creek flowing through the center. Vegetation is sparse except along the creek which is heavily timbered with ponderosa and lodgepole pine. The remainder of the land is primarily pasture containing various types of grasses, rabbitbrush, and prickly pear cactus.

Imprints of Man: No major imprints of man are in the unit.

Evaluation of Public Comment: No comments were received about naturalness.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: This unit adjoins the Sangre De Cristo area which was being recommended for wilderness by the U.S. Forest Service. This unit is complimentary to the Sangre De Cristo area and shares that area's outstanding opportunities for solitude. Without its contiguity with the Rare II area, there are no outstanding opportunities for solitude in this 160 acre tract of land.

Evaluation of Public Comment: No comments were received addressing solitude within the unit.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE, UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: The Rainbow hiking trail which runs 75 miles from Salida to Music pass goes through the middle of this unit. Along the trail are outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. However, this unit is no longer contiguous with the USFS Rare II area #A2-266, so these opportunities are not available. Outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation cannot be obtained in this small unit alone.

Evaluation of Public Comments: No comments addressed primitive and unconfined recreation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

As mentioned under Primitive and Unconfined Recreation, the Crystal Falls hiking trail goes through the unit. While the majority of this 75-mile trail is on U.S. Forest Service land, a portion of the trail goes through this unit and crosses the Crystal Falls Creek. No comments were received concerning supplemental values.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

There are no detractions from naturalness in this unit which need to be returned to a natural condtion. No comments addressed this issue.

RATIONALE FOR NOT IDENTIFYING THIS UNIT AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

Since the BLM 2/1/80 recommendation the U.S. Forest Service has altered the boundaries of areas being recommended for wilderness in the Sangre De Cristos. Since this unit is considerably less than 5,000 acres (160 acres) and no longer contiguous to land being recommended by the Forest Service for wilderness, the BLM is not recommending the unit for further wilderness consideration.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. Since this area has not been identified as a WSA, comments addressing these concerns will be utilized by BLM in future land-use planning.

Two comments generally supported wilderness designation for the unit. One comment felt that units next to RARE II wilderness recommendation areas should not be dropped until decisions are made on Forest Service proposals. This unit is no longer contiguous to a USFS Rare II Proposed Wilderness Area.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Crystal Falls
CO 050 033

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 5

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 9
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

2 Personal Letters
1 Postcards
2 Public Comments Forms
____ Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

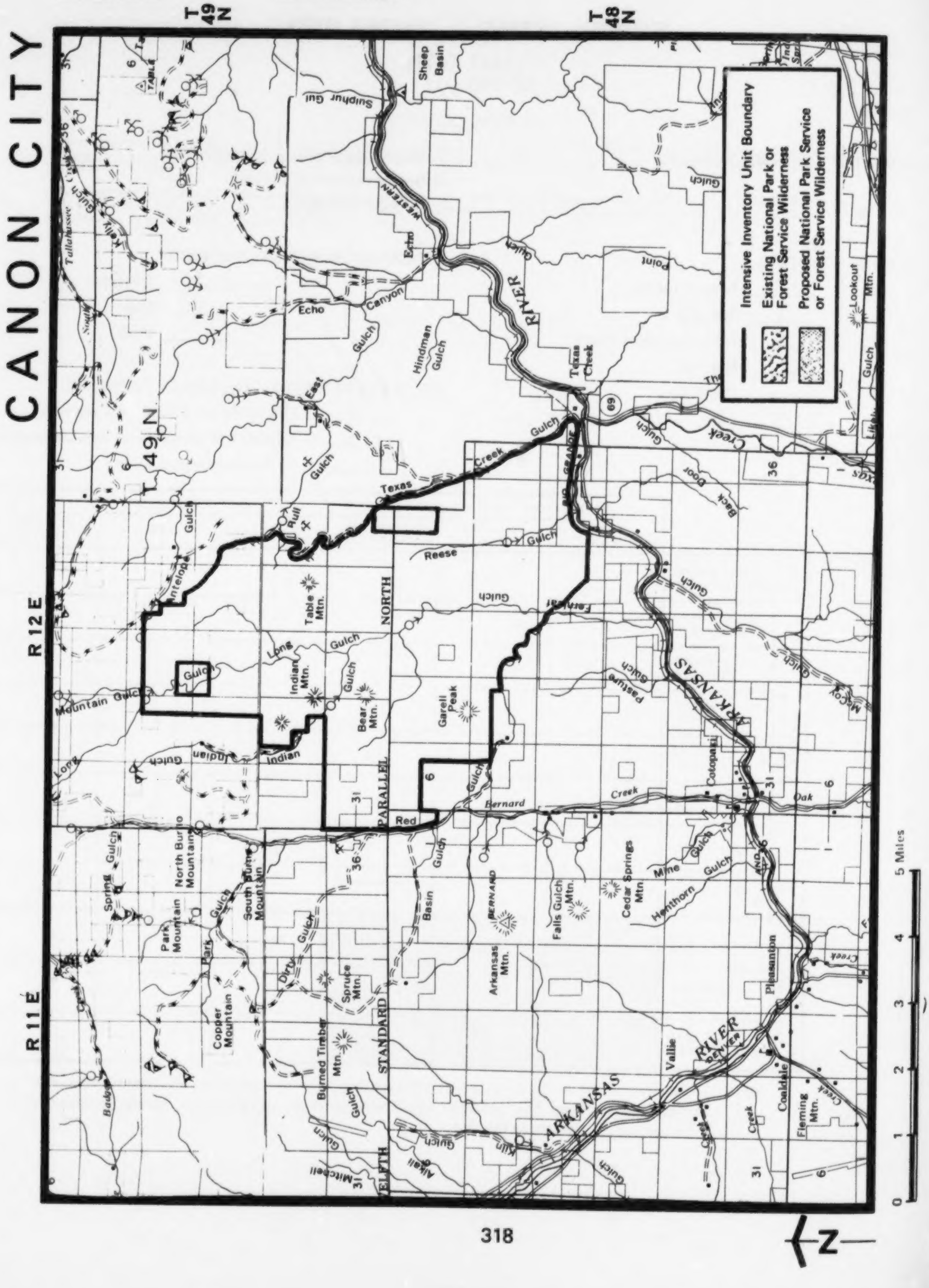
5 Colorado
____ Utah
____ Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

4 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
____ # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.		1		1		
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS						
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.	1			1		
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	3			3		
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	4		
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	1		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨			

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.


CANON CITY
T 49 N
T 48 N
R 12 E
R 11 E
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
Lookout Mtn.
Table Mtn.
Indian Mtn.
Bear Mtn.
Garell Peak
North Burro Mountain
South Burro Mountain
Park Mountain
Copper Mountain
Spruce Mtn.
Burned Timber Mtn.
Arkansas Mtn.
Falls Gulch Mtn.
Cedar Springs Mtn.
Fleming Mtn.
Sheep Basin
Texas Creek
Cotopaxi
Pleasanton
Vallie
Coaldale
Echo Canyon
Hindman Gulch
Texas Creek Gulch
Reese Gulch
Long Gulch
Indian Gulch
Red Gulch
Bernard Creek
Oak Creek
Mine Gulch
Henthorn Gulch
Basin Gulch
Dirty Gulch
Spring Gulch
Sulphur Gul
Pasture Gulch
Back Door Gulch
Alkali Gulch
Kiln Gulch
Mitchell Gulch
ARKANSAS RIVER
STANDARD PARALLEL NORTH
69
36
31
6
0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles
N

CO-050-010
Area Not Identified as
a Wilderness Study Area

BEAR MOUNTAIN

CO-050-010

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 12,950 acres intensively inventoried
0 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
0 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____Yes [✓ X No]

GENERAL LOCATION: North of Cotopaxi (Fremont County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: The proposed unit for intensive inventory was 12,950 acres.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: 12,950 acres were inventoried and no changes were made in the unit boundary.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: The intensive inventory field check revealed several miles of cut and filled ways, two check dams and five mine exploration pits. These imprints of man in addition to the five check dams previously identified (during the initial inventory) have a significant impact on the unit's naturalness. As a result of these impacts the unit is not considered in a natural condition and is not recommended as a Wilderness Study Area.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: Two sections of state-owned land totalling 400 acres (in Sec.36, T.74W., R.18S. and Sec.2, T.29S., R.74W.) are within the boundary. The remaining acreage is administered by BLM. While some unpatented mining claims are in the area, there are no active mines. Contiguous lands are a combination of public, private, and state ownership.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: Topography is steep and rugged with the primary vegetation being pinyon, juniper, and conifer, and an understory of cacti, grasses, and sagebrush.

Imprints of Man: This unit contains many significant imprints of man including a road and several miles of cut and filled ways, seven check dams and five mine exploration pits. The cumulative impact of these imprints is very significant. Specifically, three of the mine exploration pits are in open areas, four of the mine exploration pits are not screened by vegetation and are very obvious.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Of the four comments received on the unit, one noted many check dams and several roads in the unit. The BLM recommendations of February 1, 1980 noted a road and several miles of ways in the unit.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: The steep topography of the unit, in combination with the many drainages, provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. While vegetation provides some screening it is not an important factor in providing solitude.

Evaluation of Public Comments: No comments addressed solitude within the unit.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Reese, Fernleaf, and Long Gulch give good access to the interior of this unit. As a result outstanding opportunities exist for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, and snowshoeing. The varied topography and many vantage points at higher elevations provide outstanding opportunities for sightseeing and photography. In specific, Table Mountain offers a good view of the Sangre De Cristo Range and general area.

Evaluation of Public Comments: No comments were received which addressed opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

No supplemental values have been noted in the unit. No comments addressed supplemental values in the unit.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

All of the imprints of man discussed under Naturalness are significant. The possibility of any of these imprints being returned to a substantially natural or unnoticeable level would either be too lengthy for a natural process or would require the extensive use of mechanized equipment. No comments addressed this issue.

RATIONALE FOR NOT IDENTIFYING THIS UNIT AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

Bear Mountain Unit is a tract of land, 12,950 acres, which contains all necessary wilderness characteristics except naturalness. The unit shows evidence of a large degree of mining activity (mostly exploration pits) and contains seven check dams and many miles of cut and filled ways which are very obvious and are considered major impacts. In general, because of the extensive detractions from naturalness, Unit 010 does not meet the criteria required to become a Wilderness Study Area.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. Since this area has not been identified as a WSA, comments addressing these concerns will be utilized by BLM in future land-use planning.

Two comments were in favor of a WSA designation. One letter stated the state's interests in surface and mineral management must be protected from wilderness considerations.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Bear Mountain

CO 050 010

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 5

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 10
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:
3 Personal Letters
1 Postcards
1 Public Comments Forms
____ Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

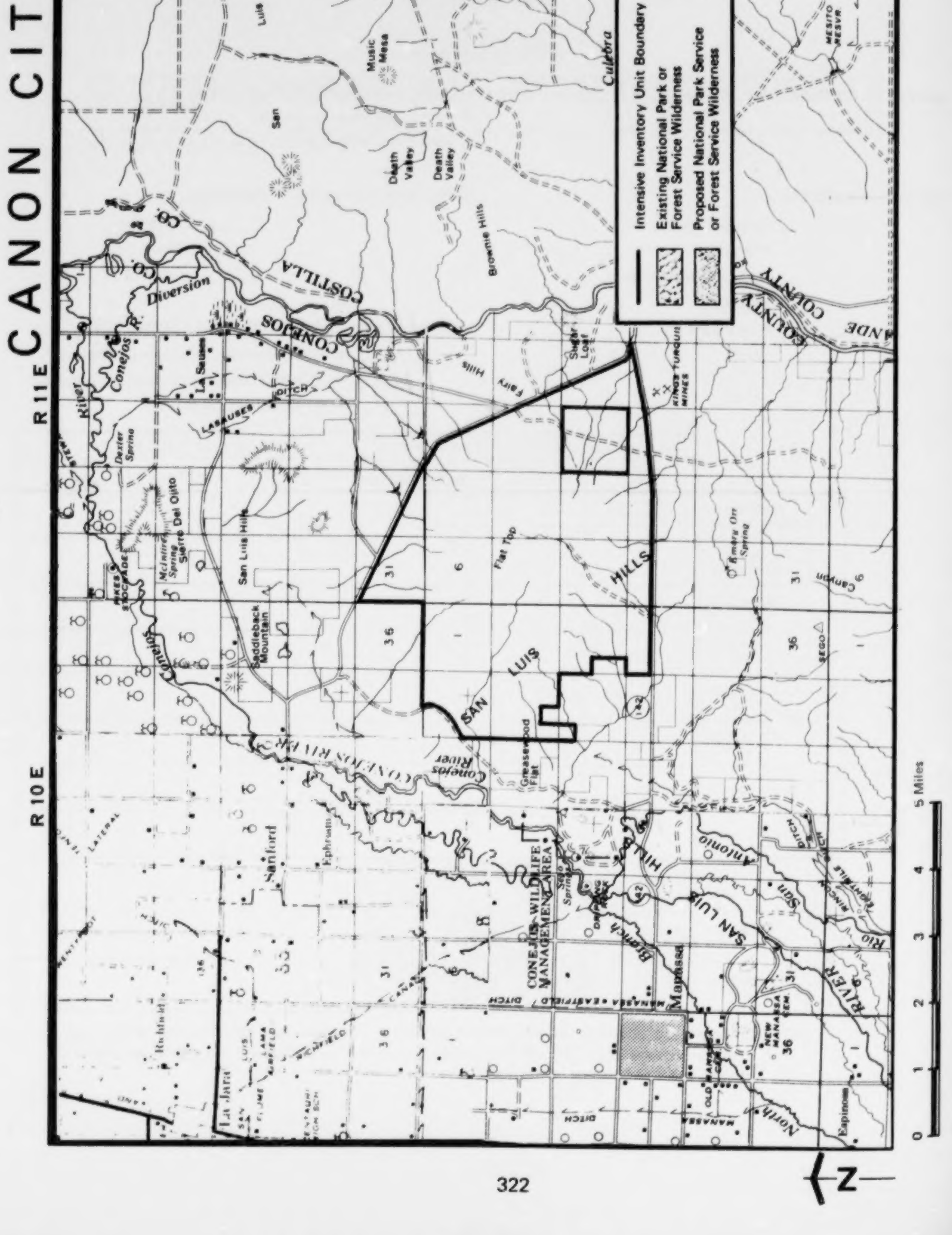
GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:
5 Colorado
____ Utah
____ Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:
2 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
2 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOM-MENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRON-MENTAL GP.			1	1		
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS			1	1		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	2	1		3		
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	2		
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	1		
	NO RECOM-MENDATION	▨	▨	▨	2		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-050-140 Flat Top


CANON CITY
R 11 E
R 10 E
T 35 N
T 34 N
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
Flat Top
SAN LUIS HILLS
San Luis Hills
San Luis
Music Mesa
Death Valley
Brownie Hills
Culebra
COSTILLA COUNTY
CONEJOS COUNTY
Conejos River
Diversion
La Sauses
Dexter Spring
Sierre Del Ojito
McIntire Spring
PIKES STOCKADE
Saddleback Mountain
Fairy Hills
Sugar Loaf
KINGS TURQUOISE MINES
Emery Orr Spring
Canyon
SEGO
Greasewood Flat
CONEJOS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
Sego Springs
Manassa
MANASSA • EASTFIELD DITCH
NEW MANASSA CEM
Sanford
Ephraim
Richfield
La Jara
Espinosa
North
San Antonio
Rio
RIVER
MESITO RESVR
142
0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles
N

CO-050-140
Area Not Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

FLAT TOP

CO-050-140

PROPOSED WSA RECOMMENDATION (2/1/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area and will be released from further wilderness study.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 9,114 acres intensively inventoried
0 acres recommended as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
0 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____Yes X No

GENERAL LOCATION: Northeast of Antonito (Conejos County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: A 9,114 acre unit was proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: No changes were recommended in the unit boundaries.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: The intensive inventory concluded that this unit lacked outstanding opportunities for either solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Therefore the unit was not recommended as a Wilderness Study Area.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: This unit contains 9,114 acres of public land administered by the BLM, with 640 acres of Colorado State land (T.34N., R.11E., Sec.16) inholdings, which are not included in the wilderness inventory. This unit is covered by an active grazing lease and has several mining claims within the boundaries. Adjacent lands includes public lands on the north, east, and south and separated from them by roads. The west is bordered by private lands and a Colorado school section.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The Flat Top unit is located in the southeast corner of the San Luis Valley. The unit consists of a mesa in the central portion of the area with flat or rolling lands around it. The surrounding lands outside the boundaries are a mixture of state, private, and public lands. The vegetation is primarily low growing species such as bitterbrush and rabbit brush with scattered pinyon/juniper. The unit is covered by an active grazing lease and has mining claims in the southwest corner.

Imprints of Man: Minor imprints of man including check dams, ways, and fences are scattered throughout the periphery of the unit. They are considered minor because they generally cannot be seen beyond a few yards. A major imprint of man, an active mine, is located in the southeast corner. It is highly visible because of the change of color and the contour of the land. No boundary adjustments were made to exclude this portion of the unit because of the lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive, unconfined recreation.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Seven comments were received which addressed naturalness. All comments agreed with BLM's evaluation of the unit as being essentially natural.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: The lack of topographic variation within this unit creates an almost impossible chance to find solitude. Approximately 50% of the unit is contained in the slightly rolling lands surrounding the mesa. From this area it is also possible to view up to 1/2 of the side slopes which lead to the mesa top. These side slopes are cut by occasional drainages but they are predominately wide open cuts which do not screen a visitor. Likewise, the rolling terrain located on the mesa top does not provide either enough acreage or variation in the terrain to screen visitors from view. The height of the predominate vegetative species, rabbitbrush, rarely exceeds two or three feet. Therefore it does not provide screening.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Thirteen comments were received which addressed this issue. Six comments were general, stating that outstanding opportunities for solitude were present but they did not specifically address why the opportunities were available. Seven comments mentioned topographic screening such as the drainages along the side of the mesa and the rolling lands of the top which could offer screening. One of these comments also mentioned that pinyon trees along the eastern edge of the mesa top could offer screening.

BLM judged this unit to lack outstanding opportunities for solitude during the intensive inventory. It was decided that while areas within the unit which offer solitude (those mentioned above in comments) overall these can not be considered outstanding. BLM's judgement after reviewing the public comments remains the same. The type of screening offered by the wide drainages and rolling lands along the base and on the top would not constitute "outstanding".

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: The lack of diversity of topography, vegetation, and wildlife offers little or no opportunity for a primitive and unconfined recreation experience. The generally flat or rolling terrain around the periphery of the unit would not be appealing to a hiker or horseback rider. The unvaried terrain should also prove disappointing to photographers. Likewise, the mesa top contains only gently rolling terrain and is limited in size (1,700 acres). There are various raptors and other bird life within the unit but the species offered for bird watching can be found throughout the San Luis Valley. Recreation opportunities are present but they were not judged to be outstanding.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Ten comments addressed this issue with five being general in nature and five giving specific information on recreation opportunities. All ten stated that outstanding opportunities were present. The five specific comments stated that hiking and backpacking was offered, and three also mentioned bird watching. One comment stated that there were caves in the unit which offered exploring opportunities. Numerous comments mentioned the scenic views while hiking.

The birding available within the unit was not considered outstanding. Sightings of raptors and other species do occur but they are not rare species nor are the numbers of sightings abundant enough to be considered outstanding. While hiking and backpacking opportunities are present, and while the unit contains scenic vistas, the opportunities are not considered to be outstanding due to the limiting size and topography of the unit.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

No supplemental values were noted in the unit. Fourteen comments addressed supplemental values. All stated that the unit is geologically interesting and three mentioned possible cultural resources within the unit. The geology and possible cultural resources of the unit could be considered to be a supplemental value, however since the unit is not being recommended as a WSA, this information will be recorded for future land use planning.

POSSIBILITIES OF RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

The fence lines, ways, and small earth dams found in this unit which were considered minor imprints of man because of their limited visual effect could be rehabilitated through natural process or hand labor. The mining activity which was considered to be a major imprint of man because of the disruption of the natural contour and color of the land could not be rehabilitated through hand labor. Because the unit does not contain outstanding opportunities for solitude or an unconfined type of recreation, the boundary was not altered to omit this area. Four general comments stated that the minor impacts of man which were considered insignificant could be rehabilitated through natural means or hand labor.

RATIONALE FOR NOT IDENTIFYING THIS UNIT AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

BLM judged the primitive and unconfined recreation and solitude opportunities in the Flat Top unit not to be outstanding. Due to public comment two additional inventory trips were made to this unit to re-evaluate these opportunities. Individuals concerned with BLM's judgement were invited to accompany the BLM members to incorporate their ideas. After considering the information given by the public, BLM's evaluation remains the same. The Flat Top unit does not have outstanding opportunities for either solitude or a primitive and unconfined recreation.

Non-Inventory Information

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. Since this area has not been identified as a WSA, comments addressing these concerns will be utilized by BLM in future land-use planning.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Flat Top
CO 050 140

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 22

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 25
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:
16 Personal Letters
1 Postcards
2 Public Comments Forms
____ Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

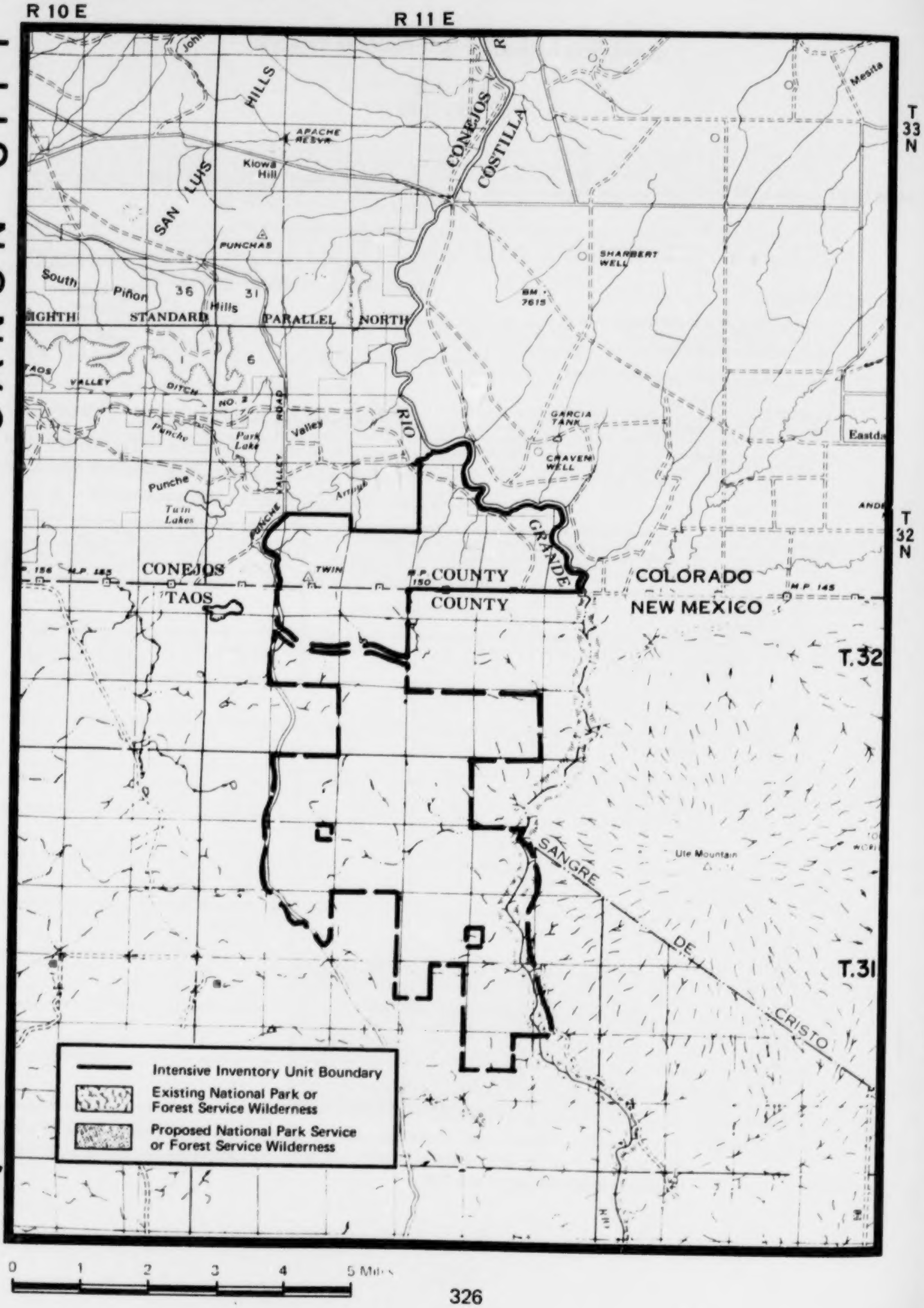
GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:
18 Colorado
0 Utah
4 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:
20 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	3			2		1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS	2			1		1
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.	1		1	2		
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	14	1		13		2
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	16		4
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	1		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	1		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-050-142 Twin Peaks


R 10 E
R 11 E
T 33 N
T 32 N
T.32
T.31
SAN LUIS HILLS
APACHE RESVR
Kiowa Hill
PUNCHAS
South Piñon Hills
EIGHTH STANDARD PARALLEL NORTH
TAOS VALLEY DITCH NO. 2
Punche Valley
Park Lake
Punche
Twin Lakes
PUNCHE VALLEY ROAD
Arroyo
TWIN
CONEJOS COUNTY
TAOS COUNTY
COLORADO
NEW MEXICO
RIO GRANDE
CONEJOS
COSTILLA
SHARBERT WELL
BM 7615
GARCIA TANK
CRAVEN WELL
Mesita
Eastdale
SANGRE DE CRISTO
Ute Mountain
M.P. 145
M.P. 150
M.P. 155
M.P. 156
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
N
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

TWIN PEAKS

CO-050-142
NM-010-33(a)

PROPOSED WSA RECOMMENDATION (2/1/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 12,900 acres intensively inventoried (3,300-CO; 9,600-NM)
0 acres proposed as WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation (both CO and NM)
0 acres identified as a WSA (both CO and NM)

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____Yes X No

GENERAL LOCATION: Southeast of Antonito (Conejos County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: This unit was not proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: As a result of public comment 3,300 acres of land in Colorado and 9,600 acres in New Mexico were jointly recommended for intensive inventory.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: The intensive inventory field check revealed two roads which were previously thought to be ways. One road parallels the Rio Grande River and the other parallels the Colorado/New Mexico border. The result of these roads was to create two separate units. The unit in Colorado combined with the small acreage of public lands in New Mexico north of the identified road created a unit of 4,060 acres. The remaining acreage remains in New Mexico and is identified as a separate unit. The combined Colorado/New Mexico unit (Twin Peaks) is less than 5,000 acres and was not recommended for WSA status.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: All land within the unit is public land administered by the BLM. Adjacent lands are a mixture of private, state, and public lands. The unit is covered by active grazing leases. The roads which were identified (see Inventory History) are maintained by the grazing leasees.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The Twin Peaks unit is on the Colorado/New Mexico border in the southeast portion of the San Luis Valley. The unit is adjacent to the Rio Grande River and separated from it by a road. The unit consists of low hills on the west with rolling lands to the east and south. Vegetation is mainly low growing bitter and rabbit brush with an occasional pinyon/juniper tree.

Imprints of Man: Imprints of man identified during the intensive inventory include fence lines, earth dam, wood stock loading ramps, and fenced water catchment device, and a large water tank with adjoining pump shed. The impact of these man-made objects was judged to be substantial because they could be seen throughout the unit.

Evaluation of Public Comments: One comment addressed the naturalness of this unit. This comment addressed several points including a water tank which was stated by the commenter as being located in New Mexico and claimed by Colorado and New Mexico. As pointed out in the intensive inventory narrative there are two tanks, one in New Mexico (horizontal placement with pump shed and gas tank) and one in Colorado (verticle placement with pump shed). Both tanks were judged to be major works of man. A second point addressed by the commenter was that the pump sheds and cattle loading ramp were nonexistent. Both works of man are located within the Colorado portion of the unit as verified by photographs and map locations.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Outstanding opportunities for solitude exist within the Rio Grande Canyon. When this portion of the unit was deleted because of a road which was originally thought to be a way, the remaining portion of the unit was judged as lacking outstanding opportunities. The rolling lands, hills, and vegetation would not offer screening. The major imprints of man discussed under naturalness would also impair a visitors chances of finding areas which offered solitude.

Evaluation of Public Comments: One comment addressed opportunities for solitude. The commenter stated that due to the lack of major imprints of mankind and physical features which afforded screening that solitude could be found. In contrast, BLM findings and evaluation judged the water tank, shed, lack of topographic variation or vegetation, and the units small size as reasons for not having outstanding opportunities for solitude. While there are areas within the unit where visitors could be screened from one another, they are severely limited and thus BLM's judgement is that opportunities for solitude are not outstanding.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Descripton: As stated under solitude, deleting the Rio Grande Canyon from the unit reduced the outstanding criteria. Evaluating the units rolling lands and hills, the BLM judged the unit not to have outstanding opportunities. The lack of topographic variaton and size limits recreation opportunities present.

Evaluation of Public Comments: No comments addressed recreation opportunities.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

No supplemental values were noted. No comments addressed this issue.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

The pump shed and water tank are considered a major imprint of man. These facilities can be seen throughout the unit because of its size and color. Natural processes or hand labor would not be able to return this impact to a substantially unnoticeable condition. No comments addressed this issue.

RATIONALE FOR NOT IDENTIFYING THIS UNIT AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The two roads which separate this unit from the main body of the New Mexico acreage (NM-010-33) create two smaller units of less than 5,000 acres. Additionally, the pump shed and water tank within the unit are considered to be a major imprint of man so that the area is considered not to be natural.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. Since this are has not been identified as a WSA, comments addressing these concerns will be utilized by BLM in future land-use planning.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Twin Peaks
CO 050 142

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 5

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 7
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

3 Personal Letters
1 Postcards
1 Public Comments Forms
Meetings
Phone Calls
Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

3 Colorado
Utah
2 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

4 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
0 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # No Recommendation Given

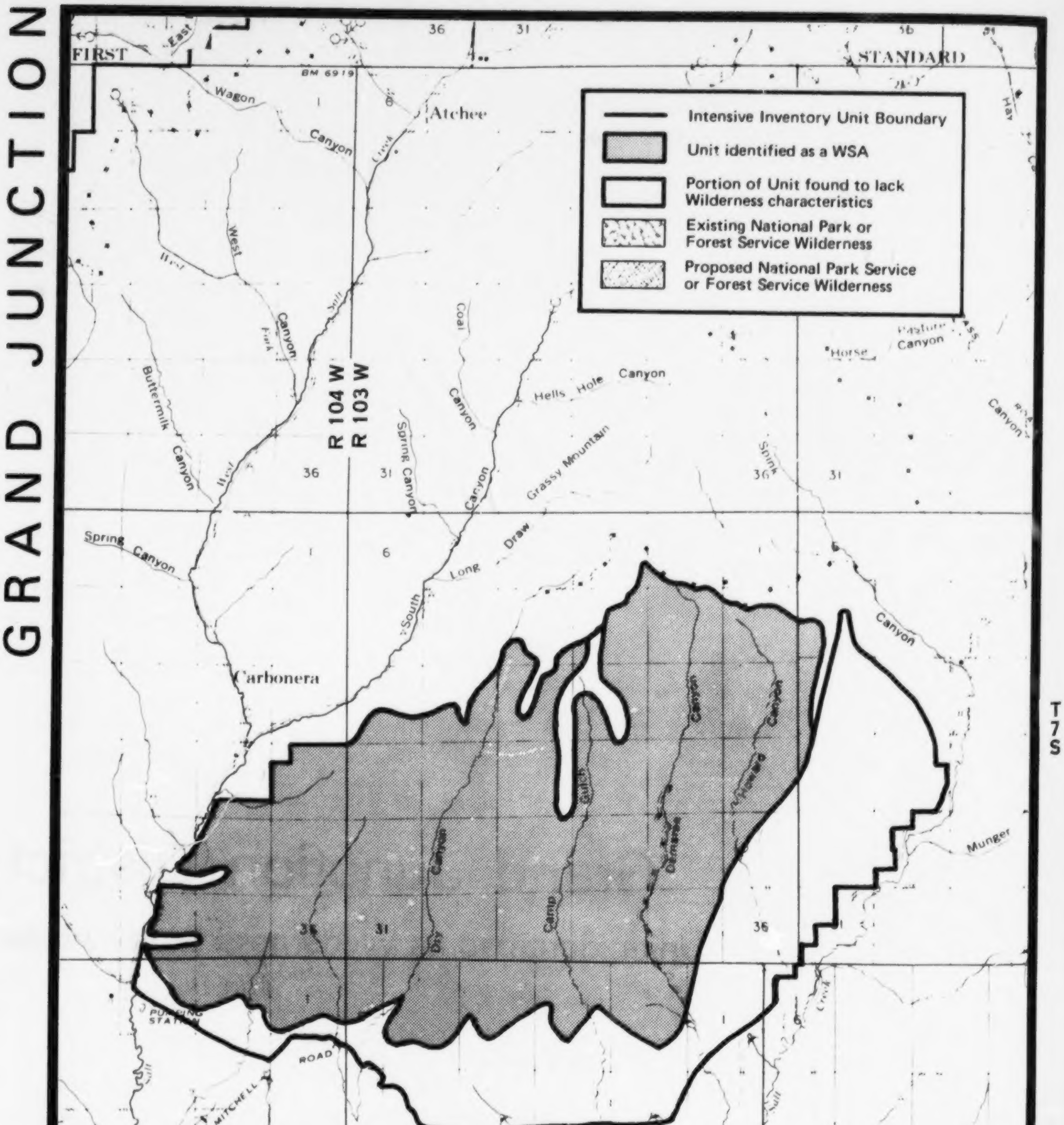
		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	1					1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS	1					1
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.			1	1		
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	2			2		
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA				2		2
	AGAINST WSA						
	NO RECOMMENDATION				1		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

Grand Junction District

Units identified as Wilderness Study Areas

CO-070-009 Demaree Canyon


GRAND JUNCTION
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
FIRST
STANDARD
East
BM 6919
Wagon Canyon
Atchee
Creek
West
West Fork
Canyon
Salt
Buttermilk Canyon
R 104 W
R 103 W
Coal Canyon
Spring Canyon
Hells Hole Canyon
Grassy Mountain
Long Draw
Spring Canyon
South
Carbonera
Horse
Pasture Canyon
Canyon
Spink
Canyon
Dry Canyon
Camp Gulch
Demaree Canyon
Howard Canyon
Munger
Creek
PUMPING STATION
ROAD
MITCHELL
GARFIELD MESA
MITCHELL ROAD
BADGER WASH EXPERIMENTAL SITE
Wash
T 7 S
T 8 S
N
0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles

CO-070-009
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

DEMAREE CANYON

CO-070-009

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 29,890 acres intensively inventoried
29,890 acres proposed as WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
21,050 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: X Yes ____ No
Additions: 0 acres Deletions 8,840 acres
(as a result of public comments)

GENERAL LOCATION: Twenty-five miles northwest of Grand Junction (Garfield-Mesa Counties)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: The unit was not proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: As a result of public comment and a field check, a 29,300 acres unit was intensively inventoried.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: The intensive inventory revealed several additional impacts in the unit. The southern boundary was redrawn to exclude two areas impacted by oil and gas activity. The boundary was also adjusted on the north to exclude constructed ways leading to two abandoned gas wells. The remaining acreage was recalculated using an electronic planimeter, resulting in a total acreage of 29,890 (an actual increase in the number of acres over the initial inventory). The unit was recommended as a WSA.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: All land within the unit is public land administered by the BLM. The entire unit is leased for oil and gas. Grazing occurs in the area under BLM permit. The surrounding lands are predominately public with some private land along the northern and eastern boundaries.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The Demaree Canyon unit offers a highly dissected topography. The dominate feature is a series of steep-sloping canyons running generally in a north-south direction. The Bookcliffs provide an abrupt break along the southern boundary of the unit. Vegetation is scattered pinyon-juniper and dense mountain brush on the higher elevations and sagebrush and saltbrush in the lower elevations.

Imprints of Man: Minor imprints of man found in the unit include two well screened fencelines, some ways and small stock reservoirs. These imprints are scattered throughout the unit and are screened with vegetation, which makes them substantially unnoticeable. The area appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Four comments were received stating that the unit is natural. One comment said that the imprints within the unit are well screened. Eighteen comments were received referencing various imprints within the unit that made it unnatural. These included fences, an old mine, a helicopter landing pad, Highway 139, a drill pad, stockponds, pipeline, two pumping stations and other developments. There was a drill pad and access road into the southwestern corner of the unit that was inadvertently overlooked during the intensive inventory. This pad and road have been cherry-stemmed.

There are no pumping stations within the unit. As a result of field investigations the southern part of the unit as well as the extreme eastern part of the unit have been determined not to be natural. The southern part of the unit has been impacted by ways, fences, reservoirs, a wildlife guzzler, and various other imprints. The Howard Canyon area has several ways, a drill pad and some reservoirs that accumulatively impact the area. It has been determined that the impacts in Howard Canyon will be excluded from the area and the boundary be extended to the cherry-stem coming in north of this canyon. The southern boundary will be pulled back generally along the foot of the steeper south aspect slopes that make up this unit. Totally 8,840 acres are deleted bringing the area to a new acreage of 21,050 acres. See map.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Due to the highly dissected topography caused by the series of canyons and ridges, and due to ample topographic screening, outstanding opportunities for solitude are present. The large size and blocked configuration of the unit also enhance the opportunities to be isolated from others while in the unit.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eight comments were received stating the area has outstanding opportunities while eighteen comments stated the area does not have such opportunities. Topography was primarily cited as the reason for the area having outstanding opportunities for solitude. The reasons for the area lacking these opportunities included automobile noise, air traffic, pump station noise and various noises associated with outside activity such as coal and gas development.

BLM's recommendation on 2/1/80 was that the area had outstanding opportunities for solitude based on the highly dissected topography caused by the series of canyons and ridges. Based on BLM policy, outside sights and sounds cannot be considered until the study phase unless the impact is so extremely imposing that it cannot be ignored. This is not the case in this unit where its diverse topography screens outside influences and opportunities for outstanding solitude can still be found within the canyon systems. Therefore, the unit is still considered to have outstanding opportunities for solitude based primarily on topographic screening.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation are not found in the unit. Hunting is the primary recreational opportunity in the unit. Other activities such as hiking, camping, and wildlife observation could take place but are limited due to the rugged terrain. There are no supplemental values which make the unit unique within the region or that would enhance the primitive recreational opportunities.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eleven comments were received stating that the area has outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Ten comments stated such opportunities were not outstanding. Opportunities cited for being outstanding were hiking, backpacking, sightseeing and climbing. Generally no specific rationale other than geologic features were referenced as reasons for these opportunities being outstanding. The ten comments stating the area does not have outstanding opportunity referenced primarily the area's rugged topography, lack of outstanding values in a regional comparison and the hot temperatures and aridity.

On 2/1/80 BLM recommended that the unit lacked outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. No significant values were considered present that would make the unit unique within the region or would significantly enhance primitive recreation opportunities. Hot temperatures are generally not considered in determining if a unit provides outstanding opportunities in that use can occur during the cooler seasons. Additionally, aridity is not considered as a factor in that water can be carried into the unit or use can occur during the winter or spring when the unit would normally have some surface water.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: No supplemental values have been noted to occur in the unit.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Twelve comments were received stating the unit had supplemental values and six comments were received stating that the unit did not. Supplemental values referenced included wildlife, scenery, geologic values, vegetation, ecological research and proximity to Grand Junction. Those stating the unit did not have supplemental values said that the area was not scenic nor was it unique. While the potential for some values may be present, BLM does not consider these to be supplemental values in this context.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

Natural revegetation is occurring on the minor imprints of man remaining in the unit. Hand labor could aid the natural processes, however, the imprints are minor in nature and are not substantially noticeable. Those imprints excluded from the southern and eastern portions of the unit were considered to have low potential for reclamation because of their extensiveness, degree of disturbance and low rainfall.

Evaluation of Public Comments: One comment was received that stated that the area has reclamation potential because the imprints within it are unnoticeable. Four comments said the area had little reclamation potential because of a lack of rain and that machinery would be needed to remove wells. The imprints remaining in the unit are considered to have minimal impact on naturalness and therefore do not need reclamation.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

Public review identified a number of man-made imprints that accumulatively did impact the southern and very eastern portions of the unit. Boundary modifications have been made with the remaining natural area having an acreage of 21,050 acres. Due to the unit's highly dissected topography, it does still provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. However, outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation are not considered to be present. After careful review of the public comments, the unit is still recommended as a WSA.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions. Twenty-one comments were received referencing mineral conflicts within the unit. These included conflicts with gas development, coal mining and oil shale development. One range conflict was cited and fifteen conflicts with outside sights and sounds were noted.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Demaree Canyon
CO 070 009

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 52

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 63
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:
35 Personal Letters
____ Postcards
17 Public Comments Forms
____ Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

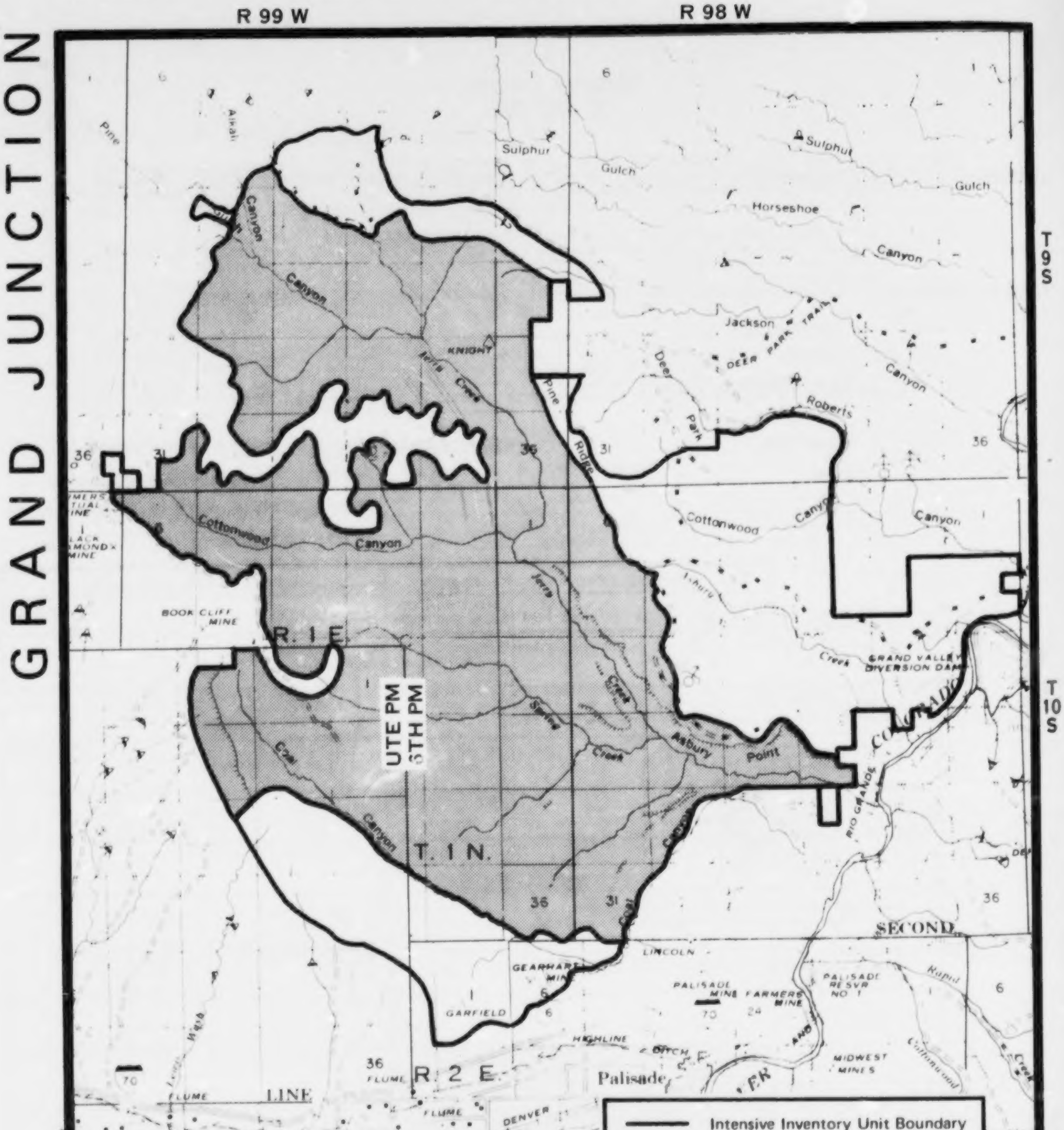
GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:
46 Colorado
1 Utah
5 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:
23 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
27 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
2 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	4			2	1	1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		9	1	8		2
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.		2		2		
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	18	16	1	33		2
	OTHER	1			1		
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	17	1	5
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	27		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	2		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-070-066 Little Bookcliffs Wildhorse Area


GRAND JUNCTION
R 99 W
R 98 W
T 9 S
T 10 S
T 11 S
R. 1 E.
R. 2 E.
T. 1 N.
T. 1 S.
UTE PM
6TH PM
Sulphur
Gulch
Horseshoe
Canyon
Jackson
Deer Park Trail
Roberts
Cottonwood
Canyon
Main
Canyon
Knight
Jerry Creek
Pine Ridge
Deer Park
Book Cliff Mine
Coal Canyon
Asbury Point
Grand Valley Diversion Dam
Colorado
Rio Grande
Second
Lincoln
Gearhart Mine
Garfield
Palisade Mine
Farmers Mine
Palisade Resvr No 1
Midwest Mines
Highline Ditch
Palisade
Clifton
Fruitvale
Flume
Line
Denver
Canal
Valley
East Orchard Mesa
Oldham
Bottoms
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
N
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

CO-070-066
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

LITTLE BOOKCLIFFS WILDHORSE AREA

CO-070-066

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 43,600 acres intensively inventoried
29,600 acres proposed as WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
26,525 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: X Yes ____ No

Additions ____ acres Deletions 3,075 acres
(As a result of public comments)

GENERAL LOCATION: Three miles north of Grand Junction (Mesa County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: A 19,200 acre unit was proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: As a result of public comment and field check, the unit was expanded to 43,600 acres. This is the area that was intensively inventoried.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: A 29,600 acre unit was recommended as a WSA after intensive inventory field checks revealed the presence of several roads and an area that was impacted by coal prospecting activity. Four boundary adjustments deleted these imprints of man. An additional 1,120 acres were deleted in five other boundary adjustments.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: This unit contains public lands administered by the BLM. About one-quarter of the area is under lease for livestock grazing. All of the unit is under oil and gas lease. Two coal leases exist within the unit. The majority of the unit coincides with the Little Bookcliffs Wildhorse Area, an area managed to protect a herd of wild and free roaming horses.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: Part of the southern edge of the unit is dominated by the two-thousand foot high face of the Bookcliffs. The region to the north of this face is a gently upward sloping plateau region that is highly dissected by four major canyon systems. The canyons are generally characterized by steep cliff walls on both sides that are up to a thousand feet deep in places. Vegetation in the canyons consists primarily of big sagebrush, rabbitbrush, and fourwinged saltbrush. Pinyon-juniper woodlands dominate most of the upland area which is located between the canyon systems.

Imprints of Man: The canyon systems contain only two imprints of man. These are a way in Main Canyon and several short sections of fence in Main Canyon. The lack of any construction or maintenance in conjunction with good revegetation makes this way have a minimal amount of impact on the naturalness. Several ways, a corral, and a fence line occur on the upland areas of the unit. All of these ways are unconstructed, unmaintained, parallel tire tracks. The corral is made of wood posts and is well hidden amongst the pinyon-juniper woodlands.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Nineteen comments were received that said that the unit was not natural. Eight comments said the unit is natural and that imprints are minor. Those stating that the unit was unnatural cited such imprints as stockponds, fences, ways, roads, corrals, and old burns. Others said that the adjacent chained area affected the naturalness of the unit. Several comments said there were gas wells within the boundaries of the unit.

Sufficient comment was received on roads to warrant a field check and reevaluation. The way up Coal Canyon in the southeastern part of the unit was reevaluated and reclassified as a road. This resulted in the road cutting off 3,075 acres. No other ways within the unit were considered to be roads based on the lack of maintenance and their degree of revegetation. There are no known reservoirs within the unit. Several short fence sections occur in Main and Cottonwood Canyons. These have low to moderate impact because of their limited visibility. Similarly, a wooden post corral north of Monument Rocks is well screened by the pinyon-juniper woodland. Other corrals have been excluded from the unit. Old burns within the area are revegetating and generally appear as natural parks in the unit. There are no known gas wells within the boundaries. Overall, the unit is considered to be natural in character. Based on BLM policy, imprints outside the unit cannot be considered during the inventory phase.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Outstanding opportunities for solitude exist within the Little Bookcliffs Wildhorse Area. The large number of canyons within the unit provide the recreationist many ways to disperse. The gently twisting formation of the canyons limits the views within the canyons increasing feelings of solitude. The rolling topography of the upland areas of the unit provides for outstanding opportunities for solitude because of its effective screening. This type of topography is easily travelled which also allows people to disperse. In addition, the dense pinyon-juniper woodlands in the higher part of the unit effectively screen people.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eight comments stated that the unit has outstanding opportunities for solitude while twenty-four comments stated the unit does not have such outstanding opportunities. Those people stating the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude included such reasons as diverse topography and vegetation and large size. The primary reason given for the area not having outstanding opportunities for solitude is based on outside sights and sounds. Examples are air traffic from the Grand Junction Airport, noises from Interstate 70 and noises from gas wells outside the area.

BLM's 2/1/80 recommendation was that this unit did possess outstanding opportunities for solitude. See above rationale. Outside sights and sounds cannot be considered until the study phase according to BLM policy, unless the impact is so extremely imposing that it cannot be ignored. None of the outside sights and sounds are continuous over much of the unit. Gas wells are considered to only impact a small part of the periphery of the unit. Airplane noises are only intermittent over the unit. Additionally, I-70 vehicle noises only impact the extreme southern portion of the unit. The area's large size and topographic and vegetative screening help to minimize the influence of these outside sights and sounds on opportunities for solitude.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Outstanding opportunities for several different types of primitive recreation exists within the Little Bookcliffs Wildhorse Area. The unit's size, topographic diversity, scenic beauty, the presence of a wild horse herd, and numerous different canyon systems, all work to create outstanding opportunities for horseback riding, hiking, backpacking, photography, scenic viewing, and the viewing of wild horses. The outstanding scenic beauty in conjunction with the presence of the wild horse herd offers outstanding opportunities for photography and wild horse observation while participating in hiking. Backpacking opportunities are outstanding as a result of the large number of traversable canyon systems. The ruggedness of the unit provides the backpacker with a high degree of challenge.

Evalution of Public Comments: Eight comments were received stating that the unit has outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Sixteen comments stated the contrary. Activity cited as being outstanding included hiking, backpacking, photography, horseback riding and scenic viewing. The wild horses were cited in several letters as enhancing these opportunities. A variety of reasons were given for the area lacking outstanding primitive recreation. These included difficult physical access and steep "undesireable" topography; vehicles needed to use; hot and dry; and lack of water. Other comments included statements that the area was not ecologically or topographically unique, had danger from floods and was impacted from outside sights and sounds.

BLM's recommendation on 2/1/80 was that the unit does provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Physical access into and through the unit is not considered a problem. See above narrative. Also the variety of topography enhances the outdoor recreation opportunities. Steep topographic features such as the canyon walls do exist in the unit but these features are inter-mixed with other more accessible topographic features. Hot temperatures and gnats in the summer do not prevent primitive recreation activities from occurring in other seasons. BLM policies do not allow consideration of the absence of water or the presence of outside sights and sounds at this time. See section on solitude. Water can be carried into the unit and may be available in the unit during some seasons. Again, danger from flooding is a temporary consideration and not considered a major constraint to experience primitive recreation in the unit. Flooding dangers and steep topography may actually add to the challenge and risk of the primitive recreation experience. It is for these reasons that BLM 2/1/80 recommendation is still considered valid.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: Several supplemental values exist in the unit, the predominant one being the presence of 65-100 wild horses. Cultural values of the Fremont Culture are found here, as well as several natural bridges and hoodoos. The unit is in close proximity to Grand Junction, Colorado.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Nineteen comments said the area possessed supplemental values. These included fossils, varying topography, wild horses, canyons and wildlife and was the area's proximity to Grand Junction. Four comments stated the unit does not possess supplemental values citing such things as the scenery not being outstanding and the topography not being unique. Two comments were of a general nature.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

There are no major imprints of man within the unit that would require rehabilitation. Three comments said the area could be reclaimed to a natural condition, while five comments said it could not be. The comments for reclamation were of a general nature. Those stating the unit did not have reclamation potential primarily referenced steep topography and a lack of rainfall as being the primary limiting factors. The road running up Coal Canyon has large bench cuts in the upper portions, which would be very difficult to revegetate. The bladed road surface would also be difficult to reclaim therefore, this road was excluded from the unit.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

Ways within the unit have been re-evaluated through field checks and a way in Coal Canyon has been re-classified as a road. This resulted in an acreage change within the unit decreasing the area's size from 29,600 acres to 26,525 acres. The Little Bookcliffs Wildhorse Area is of sufficient size to make practicable its use and preservation in an unimpaired condition. Those imprints of man that occur within the unit are considered minor. The unit's overall size, scenic beauty, and topographic diversity provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. The unit contains several supplemental values that add to the overall wilderness character of the unit. This area meets all of the criteria for a Wilderness Study Area.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addresssed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

Sixteen comments were received stating that there are mineral conflicts within this unit. Included in this conflict are natural gas and coal. Four comments also said there was a conflict with the use of the winter and summer range in the unit. Fifteen comments said there's a conflict with outside sights and sounds which were discussed above. Two comments said there was a conflict if woodcutting is restricted in the area. Other comments said WSA designation would cause road closures thereby denying vehicle access and motorized recreation. Three letters addressed air quality. One comment said the unit cannot be maintained as Class II air quality without undue economic hardship. Another comment expressed concern over upgrading of air quality for this WSA. One comment said solitude will be difficult to achieve because the developed nature of the surrounding area will affect the air quality over the unit. One of the air quality comments included a petition signed by 67 individuals.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Little Bookcliffs Wild Horse Area
CO 070 066

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 54

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 143
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

51 Personal Letters
___ Postcards
3 Public Comments Forms
___ Meetings
___ Phone Calls
___ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

50 Colorado
___ Utah
4 Other

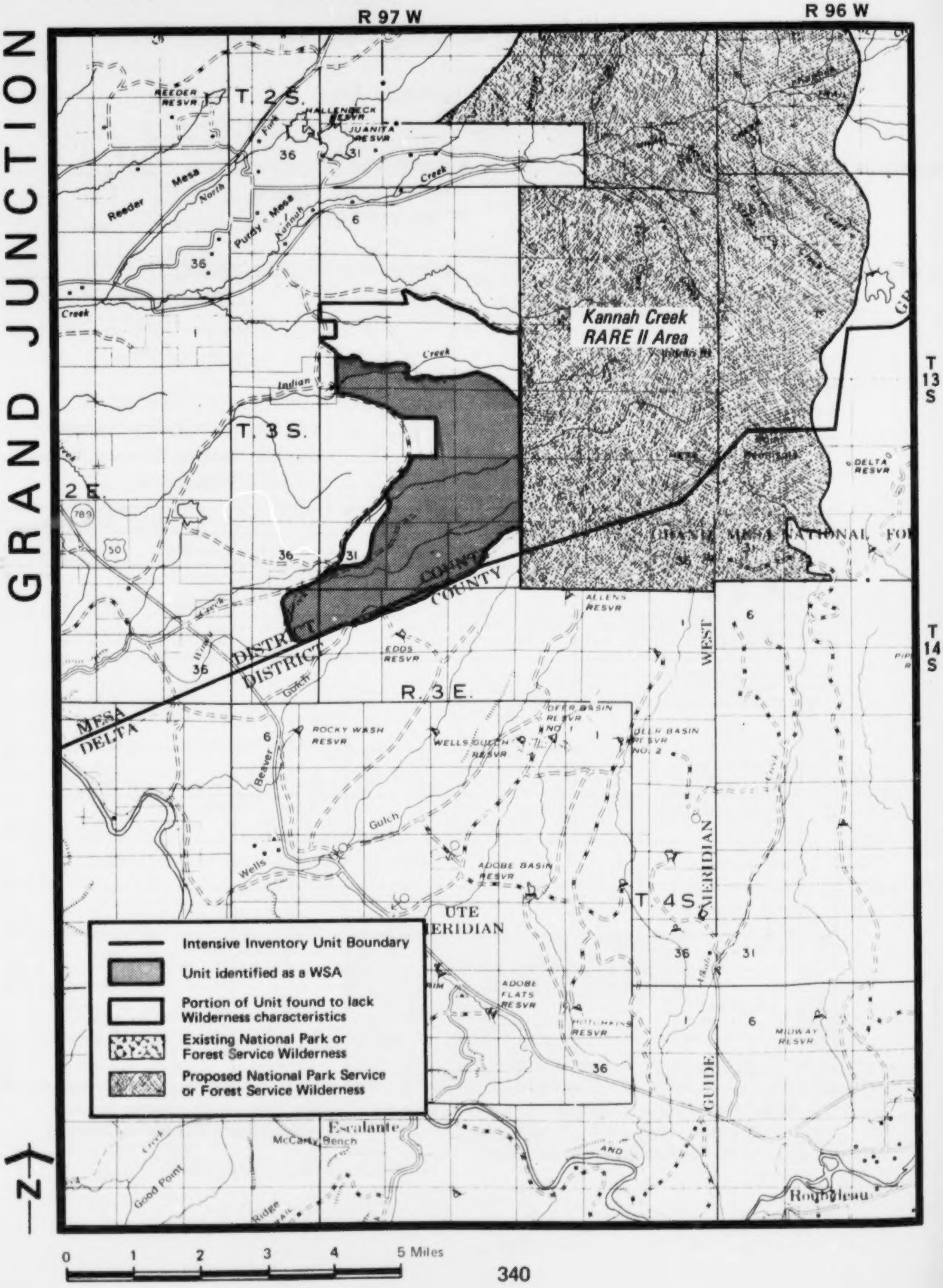
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

27 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
26 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	2			1		1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		11		10		1
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.		2		2		
	STATE GOVT.			1	1		
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	25	13		36		2
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA				25		2
	AGAINST WSA				24		2
	NO RECOMMENDATION				1		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-070-103 Kannah Creek


GRAND JUNCTION
R 97 W
R 96 W
T. 2 S.
T. 3 S.
T. 4 S.
T 13 S
T 14 S
R. 3 E.
2 E.
Kannah Creek RARE II Area
REEDER RESVR
HALLENBECK RESVR
JUANITA RESVR
Reeder Mesa
North
Fork
Purdy Mesa
Kannah
Creek
Indian
ALLENS RESVR
EDDS RESVR
ROCKY WASH RESVR
WELLS GULCH RESVR
DEER BASIN RESVR NO. 1
DEER BASIN RESVR NO. 2
ADOBE BASIN RESVR
ADOBE FLATS RESVR
HOTCHKISS RESVR
MIDWAY RESVR
DELTA RESVR
GRAND MESA NATIONAL FOREST
MESA COUNTY
DELTA COUNTY
DISTRICT
UTE MERIDIAN
WEST
GUIDE MERIDIAN
AND
Beaver
Gulch
Wells
Escalante
McCarty Bench
Good Point
Ridge
Roubideau
50
789
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
N
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

CO-070-103
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

KANNAH CREEK

CO-070-103

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 30,541 acres intensively inventoried (Grand Junction District 8,500 - acres; Montrose District - 22,041 acres)
11,240 acres proposed as WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation (Grand Junction - 4,600 acres; Montrose - 6,640 acres)
4,250 acres identified as a WSA (Grand Junction only; adjacent to USFS Kannah Creek RARE II area - 29,650 acres)

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: __X__Yes _____No

Additions __0__ acres Deletions __350__ acres

GENERAL LOCATION: Eight miles northwest of Delta

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: The initial inventory situation evaluation recommended 17,200 acres for intensive inventory. This included public lands administered in both the Grand Junction and Montrose Districts.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: Field checks as well as public comments received between 5/79 and 7/79 resulted in the addition of another 16,002 acres in two separate parcels. Two deletions totaling 44 acres were made to exclude a county maintained road and numerous range improvements. After these boundary adjustments, and a correction in acreage calculations, 30,541 acres were identified for intensive inventory (includes Grand Junction District: 8,500 acres and Montrose District: 22,041 acres).

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: Intensive field inventory conducted during the summer of 1979 resulted in boundary modifications. A road and significant way removed 10,720 acres from unit CO-070-370A and a new unit CO-070-370B was identified. A total of 5,681 acres within the southern portion of this unit was excluded because of numerous vehicle ways and past National Guard activity. Totally, 11,240 acres were recommended as a WSA following boundary adjustments (6,640 acres within the Montrose District and 4,600 acres within the Grand Junction District).

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: All land within the unit is public land administered by B.L.M. The western boundary is a mixture of public and private land while public adjoins the unit on the north and the south. The U.S. Forest Service Kannah Creek RARE II area consisting of 29,650 acres is contiguous to the eastern boundary. The area is covered by oil and gas leases. Grazing also occurs in the unit by B.L.M. permit.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: Kannah Creek is characterized by steep mountain slopes dropping off of Grand Mesa. These slopes are cut by periodic drainages which are separated by mesa-like formations. The upper elevations of the area are characterized by a dense cover of pinyon-juniper trees, while grasses, shrubs, and cacti typify the lower area.

Imprints of Man: Imprints of man within the unit include several ways and fencelines. These imprints are considered to be substantially unnoticeable due to dense pinyon-juniper screening and do not impair the overall naturalness of the area.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Nine comments addressed the naturalness of the unit while five addressed roads. Several comments stated roads were in the unit but did not provide any maintenance or construction information. One comment did refer to specific maintenance on what was referred to as a road along the Mesa-Delta county line. One comment stated that no roads were within the unit. Four comments said some imprints of man were within the unit but were generally unnoticeable. BLM has evaluated all imprints within this unit. Two roads have been deleted, resulting in two boundary adjustments. The way along the county line was re-evaluated and determined to be a road. This resulted in unit CO-070-370A, Kannah Creek contiguous being split from CO-070-103. A 50 acre parcel that was originally part of the Kannah Creek unit was also separated by this road but remained part of CO-030-370A. Another 300 acres were separated by a gas well access road that was inadvertently constructed along an existing way in the southwestern corner of the unit. In the spring of 1980, BLM contacted several conservation groups and proposed that this 300 acre impacted area be deleted from the unit during the final intensive inventory decision. No adverse comments were received. All other imprints are considered to be minor and not have a significant impact on naturalness. There are no wildlife guzzlers in CO-070-103.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: The unit alone does not have outstanding opportunities for solitude due primarily to small size (4,250) and limited vegetative and topography in the lower elevation. Only in conjunction with the USFS Kannah Creek RARE II area (29,650 acres) would the area be considered to contain outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eight comments were received concerning solitude in the unit. Five comments stated that because of the large area and varying terrain, outstanding opportunities for solitude were present. One comment stated that because of the lack of same, the opportunities were not present. The intensive inventory determined that these factors were present and provided outstanding opportunities for solitude. One comment addressed the idea that outstanding opportunities for solitude were dependent upon the personal viewpoint of the individual and another comment stated solitude would be present because no one would want to go to this area. Several comments stated that the area does not have outstanding opportunities because of air traffic in the area. One comment said that vegetative and topographic screening was over-emphasized. Another comment said the area was too small. Outside sights and sounds, primarily air traffic between Grand Junction and Montrose, cannot be considered until the study phase.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Outstanding opportunities to experience primitive and unconfined recreation are not present in this unit due to the unit's small size and the barbed wire fence forming the administrative boundary of the unit between the BLM and the USFS. However, outstanding opportunities do exist in the contiguous USFS RARE II Kannah Creek Area which includes 29,650 acres. The current boundary fence prevents unconfined movement into CO-070-103 from the RARE II Area but this fence could be easily removed. Only in conjunction with the USFS Kannah Creek Rare II area (29,650 acres) would the area be considered to contain outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eight comments were received which addressed this subject. Four stated that due to topographic diversity of the animal and bird populations present in the area, outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation would be found in the unit. One comment said the lack of wildlife would limit the recreation potential. The area does have a year-long antelope population on its lower elevations and is used by deer and elk during the winter season. These, combined with the small birds and raptors found in the unit, contribute to the primitive recreation potential. Elevation in the unit drops from 8,000 to 5,800 feet with several major and minor drainages descending this elevation change, providing topographic diversity and enhancing primitive recreation opportunities. Two comments addressed the point that lack of water would limit the use of the unit. This factor could reduce use during the summer season but could also allow use during the winter and spring seasons when water is available and other areas are inaccessible. One person stated he would not go to this area to recreate.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: Unit CO-070-103 possesses several supplemental values including geologic interpretive values, cultural and wildlife values, and riparian zones. The area is a big game winter concentration area. Deer and elk are common here and antelope can also be observed in the lower elevations. Also, the area is within easy driving distance of Grand Junction.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eight comments stated the area has supplemental values and three comments said the area does not. Supplemental comments cited included being adjacent to the Kannah Creek RARE II Area, the area's interesting geology, scenery, wildlife and archaeology. Those stating the area does not have supplemental values based this on the lack of scenic quality, emphasizing that the area had nothing to offer. The BLM has stated that the area does contain several supplemental values.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

There are no major imprints of man within the unit that would require rehabilitation. One comment was received stating the area has reclamation potential because imprints are minor. Two comments stated the area does not have reclamation potential. One comment said the area had a "revegetation problem" and another said rehabilitation would be expensive because there's no water and the unit has deep ravines.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The area is of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation in an unimpaired condition and provides for outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation if considered in conjunction with the adjacent USFS RARE II area proposed by the Forest Service for wilderness designation. The unit contains supplemental values including geologic, cultural and wildlife values plus riparian zones. The unit meets all the criteria to become a Wilderness Study Area if the contiguous RARE II area is designated wilderness.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after September 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

Six comments said there were conflicts between oil and gas development and wilderness designation. Four commenters said there were grazing conflicts while three cited outside vehicle traffic that could be seen from the unit as a problem. Some references were also made to air traffic and powerlines causing a similar problem. One utility company expressed concern about air quality changes over WSA's and how this could restrict power plant sites. Another comment said WSA designation would hinder access onto USFS lands.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Kannah Creek
CO 070 103

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 29

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 33
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:
22 Personal Letters
____ Postcards
6 Public Comments Forms
1 Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

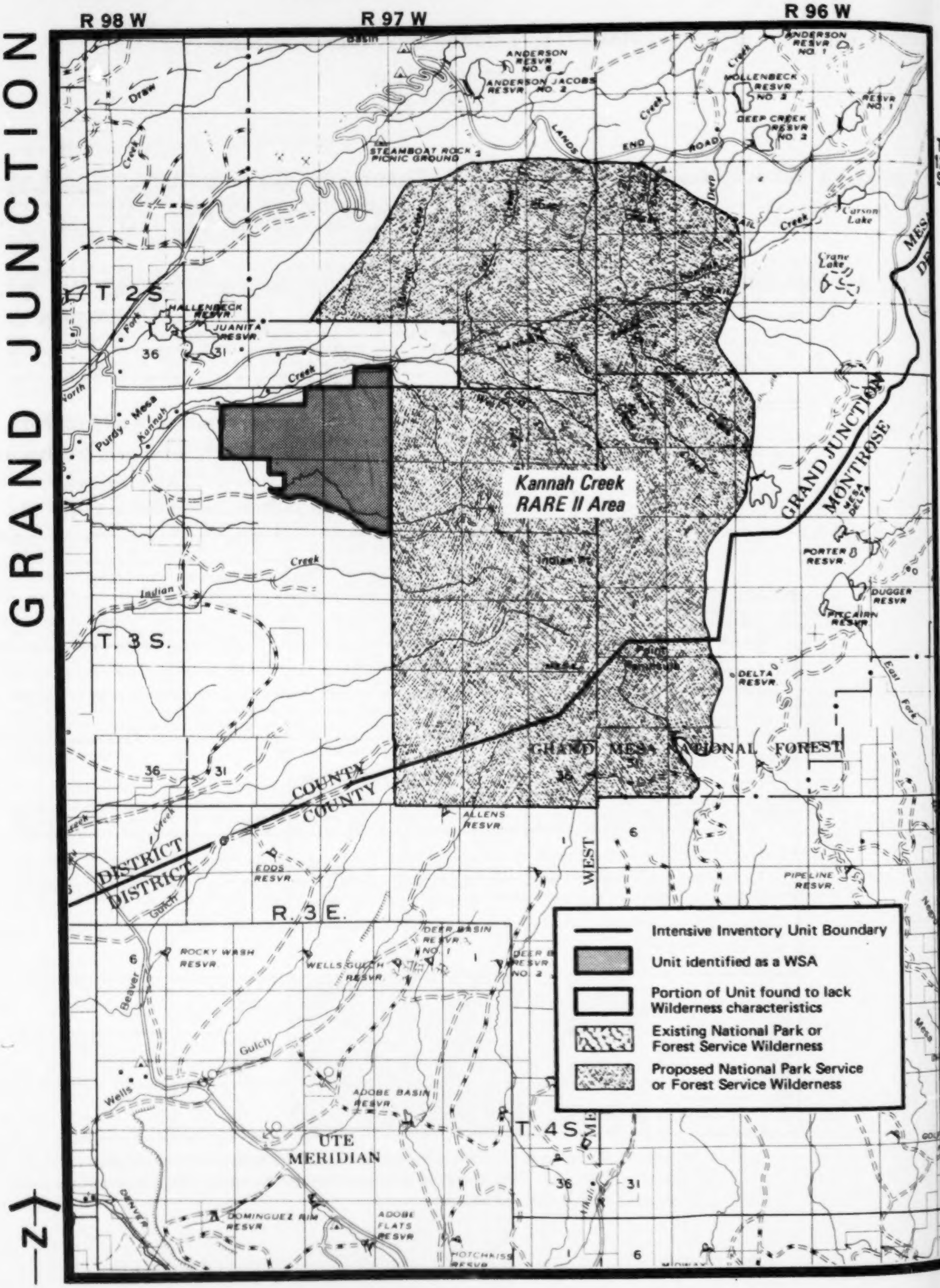
GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:
27 Colorado
____ Utah
2 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:
16 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
11 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
2 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	3			2		1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		8	1	8		1
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.		1		1		
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	12	2	1	15		
	OTHER	1			1		
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	15		1
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	10		1
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	2		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-070-103A Kannah Creek North


GRAND JUNCTION
R 98 W
R 97 W
R 96 W
T. 2 S.
T. 3 S.
T. 4 S.
T 12 S
T 13 S
R. 3 E.
ANDERSON RESVR NO. 1
ANDERSON RESVR NO. 2
ANDERSON JACOBS RESVR NO. 2
HALLENBECK RESVR.
JUANITA RESVR.
STEAMBOAT ROCK PICNIC GROUND
LANDS END ROAD
HOLLENBECK RESVR NO 2
DEEP CREEK RESVR NO. 2
Carson Lake
Crane Lake
Kannah Creek RARE II Area
GRAND JUNCTION
MONTROSE
PORTER RESVR.
DUGGER RESVR
PITCAIRN RESVR
DELTA RESVR.
GRAND MESA NATIONAL FOREST
COUNTY
COUNTY
DISTRICT
DISTRICT
ALLENS RESVR
EDDS RESVR.
PIPELINE RESVR.
ROCKY WASH RESVR
WELLS GULCH RESVR.
DEER BASIN RESVR NO. 1
DEER BASIN RESVR NO. 2
ADOBE BASIN RESVR
UTE MERIDIAN
DOMINGUEZ RIM RESVR
ADOBE FLATS RESVR
HOTCHKISS RESVR
Purdy Mesa
Indian Creek
Kannah Creek
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
N
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

CO-070-103A
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

KANNAH CREEK NORTH

CO-070-103A

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 8,500 acres intensively inventoried
2,100 acres proposed as WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
2,100 acres identified as a WSA (Adjacent to USFS Kannah Creek RARE II area - 29,650 acres)

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____ Yes _X_ No

GENERAL LOCATION: 18 miles southeast of Grand Junction and three miles northwest of Delta (Mesa County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: The 6,500 acre CO-070-103 unit was proposed for intensive inventory. CO-070-103A was to become the northern part of this unit.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: To ensure consistency with BLM policy guidelines, the CO-070-103 was expanded to 8,500 acres. CO-070-103A was to become the northern part of the unit.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: The intensive inventory field check determined that the northern portion of the Kannah Creek unit is separated from the remainder of the unit by an unnatural section heavily impacted by roads. This new unit of 2,100 acres was recommended as a WSA because it is contiguous to the 29,650 acre Kannah Creek RARE II area.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: All lands within the unit is public land administered by the BLM. Private lands form the boundaries on the west and north. Public land lies to the south while the USFS Kannah Creek RARE II area consisting of 29,650 acres forms the eastern boundary. Grazing permits and oil and gas leases cover the unit. There are no easements or rights-of-way in the entire unit. No mining activity is taking place.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The unit forms part of the western slope of the Grand Mesa and is made up of adobe hills, and east-west ridges and valleys. Vegetation is primarily pinyon-juniper in the upper elevations and desert shrub in the lower elevations.

Imprints of Man: Imprints of man are generally absent in the unit except for a bladed fenceline and 3-strand barb wire steel post fence along the western boundary. The degree of impact to the unit from the fenceline is minimized by the pinyon-juniper cover which provides effective screening.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Four comments said the area was natural and seven comments said the area was not natural. Three comments said there are roads in the unit and three said there are none. The comments referring to the area as being natural primarily discussed physical characteristics such as the unit's rugged topography. Those comments stating that the unit was unnatural cited such things as fences, old irrigation ditches, the area being devoid of vegetation, excessive grazing, and lack of wildlife. One comment said air traffic made the area unnatural.

There are no known roads inside the boundaries of the unit. The fence along the eastern boundary of the unit is well-screened and not considered to have a significant impact on naturalness. Reference was made to old ditches that cross this unit that were built by the local pioneers. These ditches apparently have been reclaimed naturally in that they were not found during the intensive inventory. BLM has not evaluated outside sights and sounds during the inventory unless they were determined to be so extremely imposing that they cannot be ignored. The influence of outside sights and sounds such as airplane noises will be evaluated during the study phase.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: The unit alone does not have outstanding opportunities for solitude due primarily to small size and limited vegetative and topography screening. However, this unit is contiguous to the 29,650 acre U.S.F.S. RARE II Kannah Creek area. Only in conjunction with the USFS Kannah Creek RARE II area (29,650 acres) would the area be considered to contain outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Four comments were received stating the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude. Eight comments said that these opportunities did not exist. Comments stating the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude primarily stated that this was so because it was contiguous to the RARE II area. Those stating the area does not have outstanding opportunities primarily referenced outside sights and sounds such as air traffic, and vehicles on the highway visible to the west. Other comments stated the area lacked vegetative and topograhic screening.

BLM's 2/1/80 recommendation was this unit alone did not possess outstanding solitude unless considered with the 29,650 acre RARE II Kannah Creek area.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Outstanding opportunities to experience primitive and unconfined recreation are not present in this unit due to the unit's small size and the barbed wire fence forming the administrative boundary of the unit between the BLM and USFS. However, outstanding opportunities do exist in the contiguous USFS. RARE II Kannah Creek area which includes 29,650 acres. The current boundary fence prevents unconfined movement into CO-070-130A from the RARE II area but this fence could be removed. Only in conjunction with the USFS Kannah Creek RARE II area (29,650 acres) would the area be considered to contain outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Three comments were received stating the area has outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation while four stated that such opportunities did not exist in the unit. The adjacent RARE II area was referenced as helping to provide these opportunities. Reasons given for lack of outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation included such reasons as "too bleak for activities", little wildlife, very rocky and typical vegetation and topography. Other reasons given included lack of water and presence of gnats.

BLM's 2/1/80 recommendation on this unit for outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation was the unit did not possess these opportunities unless considered with the contiguous RARE II area. The comments referring to the unit as being "too bleak" or typical vegetation and topography did not consider the adjacent RARE II area which has a high degree of vegetative and topographic variety. Additionally, this unit makes up part of the Grand Mesa, one of the largest flattop plateaus in the world. The unit is used as a deer and elk wintering range. A variety of birds including raptors can also be observed in the unit. Water can be easily packed into a unit and is available in the unit during spring and winter. Gnats are a common problem in the region during late spring and summer every year.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: The unit contains geological interpretive, wildlife, and cultural values. Additionally, it is only 18 miles from the Grand Junction area.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Seven comments were received stating the area has supplemental values and four comments said the unit did not have these values. Supplemental values cited included being adjacent to a RARE II area, wildlife, and interesting geology. Reasons stated for the area not having supplemental values were mostly general but did include a statement that the area was not scenic.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

A 3-strand, barbed wire fence with steel posts along a bladed fenceline create a moderate impact on naturalness. Visibility of this fenceline is limited in the unit because pinyon and juniper trees screen it from view. This fence could be removed by hand labor.

Two comments were received stating that the area has reclamation potential and that fences could be removed by hand. Three comments said the area did not have reclamation potential citing primarily a lack of rainfall and steep topography as being restrictions to reclamation.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The unit's small size of 2,100 acres would normally disqualify it from consideration as a W.S.A. However, it is adjacent to the 29,650 acre RARE II Kannah Creek area which was recommended by USFS for Wilderness designation. The area is roadless and natural except for a boundary fence between the USFS and BLM lands. This fence line has been bladed but its impact on naturalness in the unit is only considered moderate. Outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are not present in CO-070-103A due primarily to size. However, when the adjacent RARE II area is considered, CO-070-103A does have outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The unit meets all the criteria to become a wilderness study area if the contiguous Kannah Creek RARE II area is designated wilderness.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

Five comments said there were conflicts in this unit between oil and gas development and wilderness designation. Three comments stated there were grazing conflicts while five cited outside vehicle traffic that could be seen from the unit as a problem. References were also made to air traffic and powerlines causing a similar problem. Two comments addressed access. One said wilderness designation would restrict access onto USFS lands. Another comment expressed concern about being able to get access across the unit to check ditches and water lines. It was also stated that a conflict could exist in building another line along the boundary of the unit.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Kannah Creek North
CO 070 103A

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 22

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 22
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:
14 **Personal Letters**
___ **Postcards**
7 **Public Comments Forms**
1 **Meetings**
___ **Phone Calls**
___ **Other**

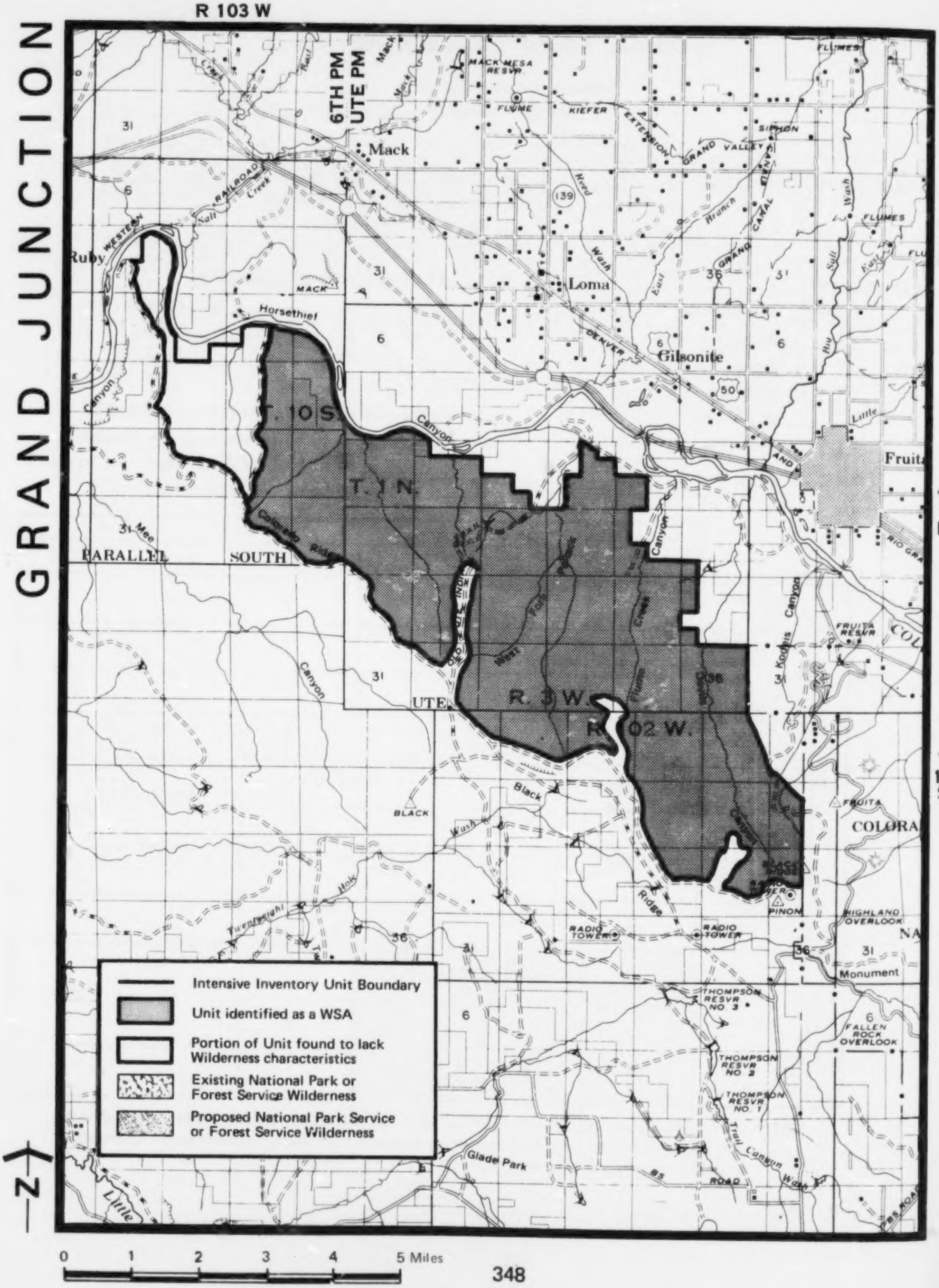
GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:
20 **Colorado**
___ **Utah**
2 **Other**

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:
12 **# FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation**
10 **# AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation**
0 **# No Recommendation Given**

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	3			2		1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		4		3		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.		4		4		
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	8	2	0	10		
	OTHER	1			1		
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	11		1
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	9		1
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨			

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-070-113 Black Ridge Canyons


GRAND JUNCTION
R 103 W
6TH PM
UTE PM
Mack
Ruby
Loma
Gilsonite
Fruita
COLORA
T. 10 S.
T. 1 N.
R. 3 W.
R. 102 W.
T 2 N
T 1 N
T 11 S
PARALLEL
SOUTH
UTE
Horsethief
Canyon
Black
Wash
Ridge
BLACK
PINON
RADIO TOWER
RADIO TOWER
THOMPSON RESVR NO 3
THOMPSON RESVR NO 2
THOMPSON RESVR NO 1
MACK MESA RESVR.
FLUME
KIEFER
EXTENSION
GRAND VALLEY
SIPHON
FLUMES
FRUITA RESVR
HIGHLAND OVERLOOK
FALLEN ROCK OVERLOOK
Monument
Glade Park
Trail Canyon Wash
Twentyeight
Little
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
N
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

CO-070-113
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

BLACK RIDGE CANYONS

CO-070-113

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 20,400 acres intensively inventoried
18,150 acres proposed as WSA in 2/1/80 recommendations
18,150 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____ Yes __X__ No

GENERAL LOCATION: Ten miles west of Grand Junction (Mesa County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: A 77,100 acre unit was proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: As a result of public comments and a field check, CO-070-113 was divided into two separate units. The unit to the east included 20,400 acres which was recommended for intensive inventory.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: The intensive inventory revealed roads in the western part of the unit which resulted in an 18,150 acre unit being recommended as a WSA.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: All lands within Black Ridge Canyons is public land administered by BLM. None of the unit is under oil and gas lease, although all of the unit is currently under grazing permits. A series of mining claims are located in the southeastern corner of the unit. There are approximately 3,140 acres along the Colorado River which are withdrawn for reclamation and water power projects. The unit is bounded by a mixture of public and private lands on all sides but the west, where BLM inventory unit CO-070-113A is located.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The Black Ridge unit consists of a high ridge on the southern side of the area, off of which drain six major canyon systems. These canyons drain in a northerly direction down into the Colorado River, which forms the northern boundary of the unit. Sloping mesas which have a rolling, hillock type of topography occur in between each of the canyons. The vegetation of the unit consists of an open pinyon-juniper woodland with occasional clearings composed of sagebrush and various species of grass. Vegetation within the canyon systems consists of scattered pinyon-juniper woodlands in the broad, open areas; grassy meadows in the canyon bottoms; and various riparian species such as willow and cottonwood.

Imprints of Man: Imprints of man which are included within the unit include five stock reservoirs, several fencelines, a corral, two tar paper shacks, and 3 ways. The stock reservoirs and fencelines are generally scattered on the mesa top along the west and southern boundaries. Two quarter mile ways, consisting of 2 tracks, also enter this southern boundary. One way approximately 3/4 mile long enters the unit on the ridge above the mouth of Flume Creek Canyon. The tar paper shacks are located in the heads of Devil's Canyon and the West Fork of Pollack Canyon. All of these imprints of man are considered to be minor. Overall, these imprints of man have a minimal degree of impact on the naturalness of the unit. This unit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature and as such is considered to be primarily natural.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Nine comments were received stating the area is natural and these included various physical descriptions of the areas primarily emphasizing the unit's deep canyons. Four comments said the area was unnatural due to stockponds, a visible radar tower, fences, shacks, a corral, an Indian trail, ways, cherry-stems, and mining activity.

The intensive inventory report has evaluated the above referenced imprints and none of them were considered to be significant impacts on naturalness. Stock reservoirs in the unit have a moderate to low impact on naturalness due to their revegetated dikes and their limited visibility within the unit. The tar paper shacks and fences also have limited visibility. The shacks are visible in only a small part of two canyons. The fences in the unit generally occur in the pinyon-juniper woodland where the fence's juniper posts (four fences) and green metal posts (1 fence) blend in with the background landscape. The corral which is made out of juniper posts also blends in with the surrounding landscape. The Ute Indian Trail consisting of two twin tracks, winds through a pinyon-juniper woodland which screens its visibility on the ground. The ways in the unit are simply 2 tracks that run for a short distance near the periphery of the unit. They are considered to have low impact on naturalness. The radar tower is located outside the unit. Although there are several mining claims inside the unit, there is no mining taking place in the area. The mining at the head of Rattlesnake Canyon was deleted from the unit. The impact of cherry-stems inserting into the unit will be considered by BLM during the study phase. Therefore, the unit is still considered to be primarily natural in character.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Overall, the Black Ridge Canyons Unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. The large number of canyon systems within the unit serve to horizontally disperse people throughout the unit without concentrating large numbers of people into certain preferred areas. Side canyons and amphitheaters allow people the opportunity to isolate themselves from the main parts of the canyons. Opportunities for solitude within a single canyon system are further accentuated by vertical isolation due to benches at various levels within a single canyon. The relatively open expanses on the mesa tops additionally offer outstanding solitude in that people can become widely separated on a horizontal basis due to topographic and vegetative screening. Additionally, the unit's large size and broad configuration greatly increases the probability of people being able to isolate themselves from one another.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Ten comments were received stating the area possesses outstanding opportunities for solitude based primarily on topographic screening. Many of these comments reference the canyons in the unit. Two comments were received stating the unit does not have outstanding opportunities for solitude referencing outside sights and sounds, including the view of Highway 70 and air traffic.

BLM's recommendation on 2/1/80 was that the unit possessed outstanding opportunities for solitude. Outside sights and sounds cannot be considered during the inventory phase. Therefore, no comments were received that would alter the recommendation that the area possesses outstanding opportunities for solitude.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation are found in the unit. Topographic diversity; unusual landforms such as arches, spires, and windows; and intermittent water ways all provide high appeal to the day hiker. Outstanding opportunities for day hiking are further accentuated by the presence of many unique geologic features. The thirteen known natural arches in the unit have an appeal to the day hiker as well as the backpacker. Opportunities for floatboating down the Colorado River are excellent. Many people float the river for the purposes of gaining access into the canyons, fishing, picnicking, camping and general scenic viewing. Several other types of primitive recreation which can also occur within the unit include horseback riding, deer hunting, fishing, bird watching, scenic viewing and the study of archaeological and paleontological sites.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Ten comments were received stating the area possesses outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. No comments were received stating that the area lacked such opportunities. Activities referenced include hiking, backpacking, sightseeing, rock climbing, photography, cross-country skiing, and floatboating.

BLM's recommendation on 2/1/80 was that the unit possessed outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. Topographic diversity, unusual land forms and geologic features along with intermittent waterways all provide high appeal to the day hiker and backpacker. Other activities are also enhanced by these characteristics. All comments received support this recommendation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: The Black Ridge Canyons unit contains several significant supplemental values. Approximately 54,000 people live in the Grand Valley within an hour's drive of the area. A rare butterfly, the Papilio indra minori is known to inhabit the area. Two endangered fish species occupy the section of the Colorado River located within the unit. These are the Humpback Chub and the Colorado Squawfish. The Razorback Sucker, which is protected by Colorado State legislation also occurs in this section of the river. Active golden eagle nesting sites exist within the area. This portion of the Colorado River has been recommended for scenic designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Thirteen known natural arches are located in the unit. Evidence of habitation by the Desert Archaic, Fremont, and Ute Indian cultures occur throughout the area. The area also contains significant paleontological resources.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Twenty comments were received stating the area has supplemental values. The values referenced include the arches, endangered wildlife, the canyons, the proximity to Grand Junction, ecological values and petroglyphs. One general comment stated the unit did not have supplemental values.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

None of the imprints of man which occur within the unit are considered to have a significant impact on naturalness. Therefore no special rehabilitation measures are needed. Six comments were received stating the unit has reclamation potential. Most of these comments said that reclamation was not necessary. One comment said the unit was too arid for reclamation, but no specific imprints were referenced.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The unit possesses outstanding opportunities for solitude as well as primitive and unconfined recreation. The unit's canyon system and associated values provide for many outstanding recreation activities. These canyons also provide for outstanding solitude. The major portion of the comments received endorsed recommending this area as a WSA.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

Several comments were received citing mineral conflicts within the unit. Three commenters said there are mining claims in the unit. One person said the unit should be reserved and designated for future prospecting and possible natural resource use. One comment said that the visibility of radio towers and the sights and sounds of commercial air traffic and Colorado River rafters should disqualify the area. Several comments also identified that WSA designation may conflict with the more than 2000 acres along the Colorado River withdrawn for reclamation and water power projects and 860 acres withdrawn for power site locations. One comment said there may be range conflicts but did not elaborate. Comments also expressed concern that road closures will cause access problems into the Black Ridge unit including senior citizens and handicapped individuals. Another comment said that restricted access will cause over-use of the periphery area with little use in the interior. A utility company expressed concern that changes in air quality classes over WSA's could restrict power plant sites.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Black Ridge Canyons
CO 070 113

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 31

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 31
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:
24 **Personal Letters**
____ **Postcards**
6 **Public Comments Forms**
1 **Meetings**
____ **Phone Calls**
____ **Other**

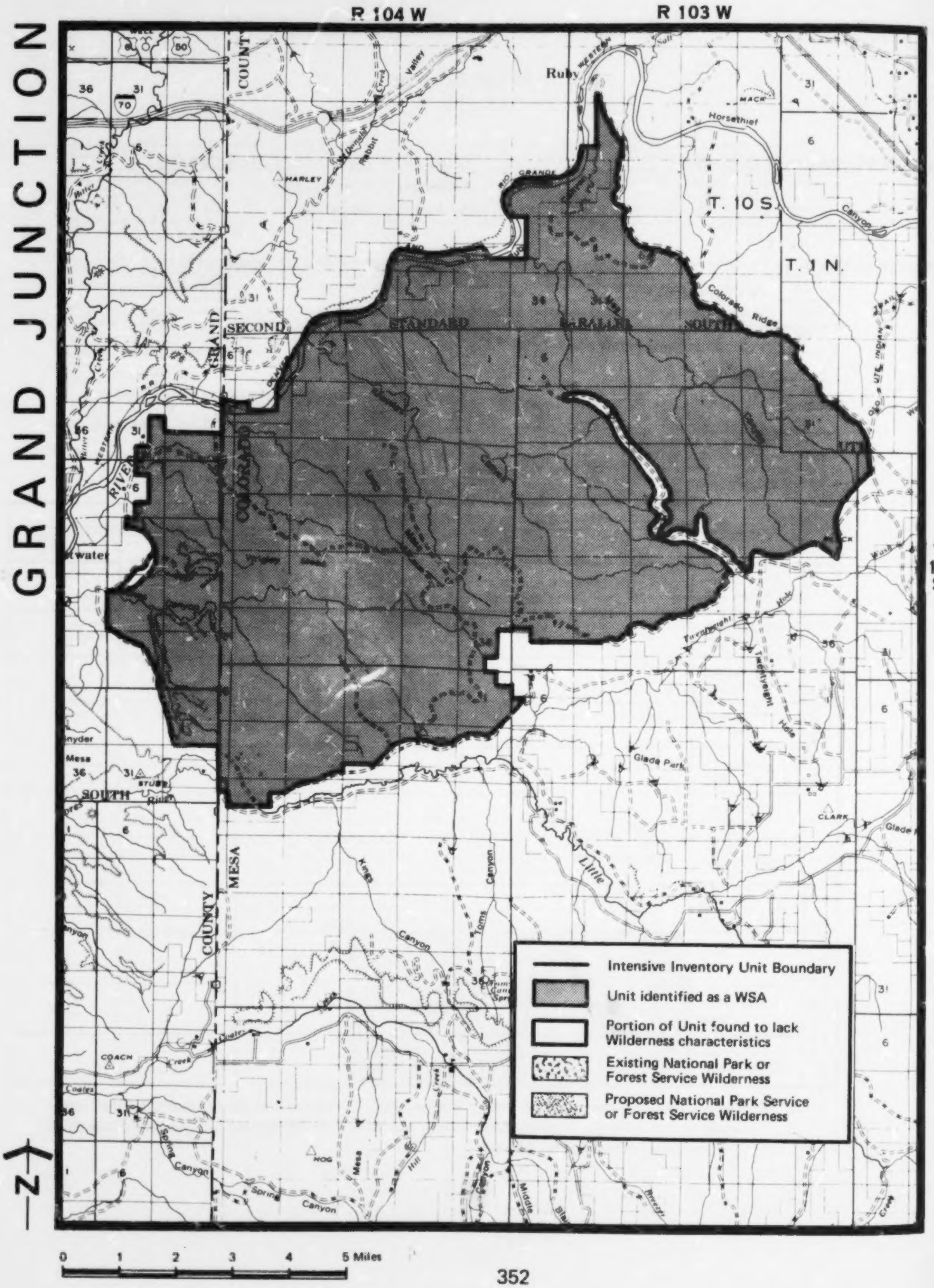
GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:
29 **Colorado**
____ **Utah**
2 **Other**

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:
22 **# FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation**
9 **# AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation**
____ **# No Recommendation Given**

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	4			3		1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		5		5		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.		2		2		
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	17	2		18		1
	OTHER	1			1		
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	20		2
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	9		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨			

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-070-113A Black Ridge Canyons West


GRAND JUNCTION
R 104 W
R 103 W
T. 10 S.
T. 1 N.
T 11 S
Ruby
MACK
Horsethief
HARLEY
RIO GRANDE
WESTERN
Colorado Ridge
STANDARD PARALLEL SOUTH
SECOND
GRAND
MESA
COUNTY
COLORADO
RIVER
Atwater
Snyder
Mesa
STUBB
SOUTH Rim
Glade Park
CLARK
Twentyeight Hole
Little
Canyon
Toms
COACH
HOG
Creek
Spring
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
N
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

CO-070-113A
UT-060-116
UT-060-117
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

BLACK RIDGE CANYONS WEST/ WRIGLEY MESA/JONES CANYON

CO-070-113A/UT-060-116/
UT-060-117

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 54,500 acres intensively inventoried (CO-49,200 acres; UT-5,200 acres)
54,290 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation (both CO and UT)
54,290 acres proposed as WSA (both CO and UT)

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____ Yes __X__ No

GENERAL LOCATION: Fifteen miles west of Grand Junction (Mesa County, Colorado; Grand County, Utah)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: A 77,100 acre unit in Colorado and two units in Utah totaling 5,200 acres were proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: As a result of public comments and a field check, CO-070-113 was divided into two units. The unit to the west was designated CO-070-113A and included 49,200 acres. It and contiguous Utah units UT-060-116 and UT-060-117 were all recommended for intensive inventory. The Utah units included 5,200 acres.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: Three boundary adjustments have been made as a result of intensive inventory field checks, deleting 110 acres. Field checks showed that the road separating UT-060-116 and UT-060-117 was in fact a way, therefore these two units are no longer divided. Totally, 54,290 acres in this unit were recommended as a Wilderness Study Area.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: All lands within this unit straddling the Colorado-Utah state line are public lands administered by the BLM. None of the unit is currently under oil and gas lease. No leases occur in the Colorado part of the area as a result of a M.F.P. decision (Management Framework Plan-BLM planning system) which emphasized the protection of the area's recreational and scenic values. All of the unit is leased for livestock grazing. No mining claims or rights-of-way are known to exist in the unit. To the north and south of the unit lie a mixture of public and private lands.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The Black Ridge Canyons unit is located on the sloping northeast edge of the Uncompahgre Plateau. The unit consists of a series of deep canyon systems which dissect the plateau. Vegetation within the canyon bottoms consists of pinyon-juniper woodlands, grassy meadows, and riparian types of vegetation in the moister areas. The mesas are relatively flat with small drainage channels occurring throughout. Vegetation of the mesas is dominated by pinyon-juniper woodlands and occasional sagebrush parks.

Imprints of Man: No imprints of man occur within the canyons systems of the area. Several ways, some stock reservoirs, and a few fence lines occur on the mesa tops, all of which are considered to have a minimal impact on the naturalness of the unit, due to vegetative and topographic screening. The unit is essentially natural in character and is affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Ten comments received stated the unit is natural. These included various physical descriptions of the unit, especially its deep canyons. Five comments said the areas was not natural because of the visibility of a radio tower, stock reservoirs, fences, corral and a rock quarry. Four comments said there are no roads in the unit while three said there are roads.

The intensive inventory report has evaluated all of these imprints. The radio tower is located outside of the unit and its visibility will be evaluated during the study phase. Stock reservoirs in the unit are situated generally near the boundary of the area which tends to minimize their impact on naturalness. Additionally, several are washed out while others are overgrown with vegetation. Of the five fences in the unit, four were constructed with juniper posts which greatly reduces their impact on naturalness. One short section of fence with orange steel posts does occur but its visibility is to a very small area. No vegetation clearing occurs in association with any of these fences. The corral in the unit also has minimal impact on naturalness because of its limited visibility. The old rock quarry has a low degree of impact on naturalness since only a small amount of earth work has occurred there and this disturbance is now extensively overgrown. None of these imprints were considered to be significant impacts on naturalness. Therefore, the unit is still considered to be natural in character. There are no known roads.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Overall, the Black Ridge Canyons unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. The large number of canyon systems serve to horizontally disperse people throughout the unit without concentrating large numbers of people into certain preferred areas. Large side canyons and amphitheaters allow people the opportunity to isolate themselves from the main parts of the canyons. Opportunities for solitude within a single canyon system, such as Mee and Knowles, are further accentuated by vertical isolation due to benches at various levels within a single canyon. The relatively open expanses on the mesa tops additionally offer outstanding solitude in that people can become widely separated on a horizontal basis due to topographic and vegetative screening. Additionally, the unit's large size and broad configuration greatly increase the probability of people being able to isolate themselves from one another.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eight comments were received stating the area has outstanding opportunites for solitude based primarily on the unit's canyon systems. Three comments were received stating the unit lacked outstanding opportunities because of outside sights and sounds; air traffic and views of the roads outside the unit were specifically mentioned. Outside sights and sounds cannot be considered during the inventory phase according to BLM policy.

BLM's recommendation on 2/1/80 was that the unit possesses outstanding opportunities for solitude based primarily on the extensive canyon system. Public comments generally supported this recommendation. Those comments disagreeing with the recommendation did not provide site specific data that could modify the final decision.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation exist with the Black Ridge Canyons unit based on outstanding scenery and landscape variety, interesting geologic features, three major canyons, the Colorado River, and cultural and paleontological resources. These outstanding opportunities include backpacking, hiking, scenic viewing, photography, and horseback riding. Opportunities for floatboating down the Colorado are outstanding with access readily available from the Grand Junction area. Fishing, camping, and picnicking are also enhanced by the river. The variety of wildlife, including large game offers the opportunity for hunting and wildlife photography.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eleven comments were received stating the area has outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. Activities cited included hiking, backpacking, camping, photography, float boating and fishing. One general comment was received stating the area does not have outstanding opportunities.

BLM's recommendation on 2/1/80 was that the unit possessed outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation based on the unit's outstanding scenery, landscape variety, interesting geologic features, three major canyons, the Colorado River and various cultural and paleontological resources. All but one comment supported this conclusion. This one comment provided no site specific data that could modify the final decision.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: Several supplemental values can be found in the unit, including its close proximity to Grand Junction, and the presence of several endangered species of wildlife, geologic features and cultural values. Several fish and a rare butterfly (Papilio indra minori) are known to inhabit the area. A portion of the Colorado River included in the unit is presently being considered in inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Numerous natural arches are found in the unit. Evidence indicates that the area has a rich prehistory.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Twenty-two comments were received stating the unit has outstanding supplemental values. Some of the values cited included the area's canyons, geologic features such as the natural arches, ecological values, endangered wildlife and cultural sites.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

None of the imprints of man which occur within the unit are considered to have a significant impact on naturalness. Therefore, no special rehabilitation measures are needed. Five comments were received that stated the area has reclamation potential based primarily on the lack of imprints within the unit. One comment said the area was too arid for reclamation and one said the imprints are too substantial to eradicate. These latter two comments did not refer to specific imprints of man.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The unit possesses outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation based primarily on this unit's canyon system. Additionally, the unit has many supplemental values that provide for outstanding primitive recreation opportunities. The major portion of the comments received endorsed WSA designation.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after September 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions. Several comments were received citing mineral conflicts within the unit. Three commenters said there are mining claims in the unit. One comment said there may be range conflicts but did not elaborate. Comments also expressed concern that road closures will cause access problems into the Black Ridge unit including senior citizens and handicapped individuals. Another comment said that restricted access will cause over-use of the periphery area with little use in the interior. A utility company expressed concern that changes in air quality classes over WSA's could restrict power plant siting.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Black Ridge Canyons West
CO 070 113A

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 28

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 28
(Often one comment is endorsed by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:
18 Personal Letters
____ Postcards
8 Public Comments Forms
2 Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

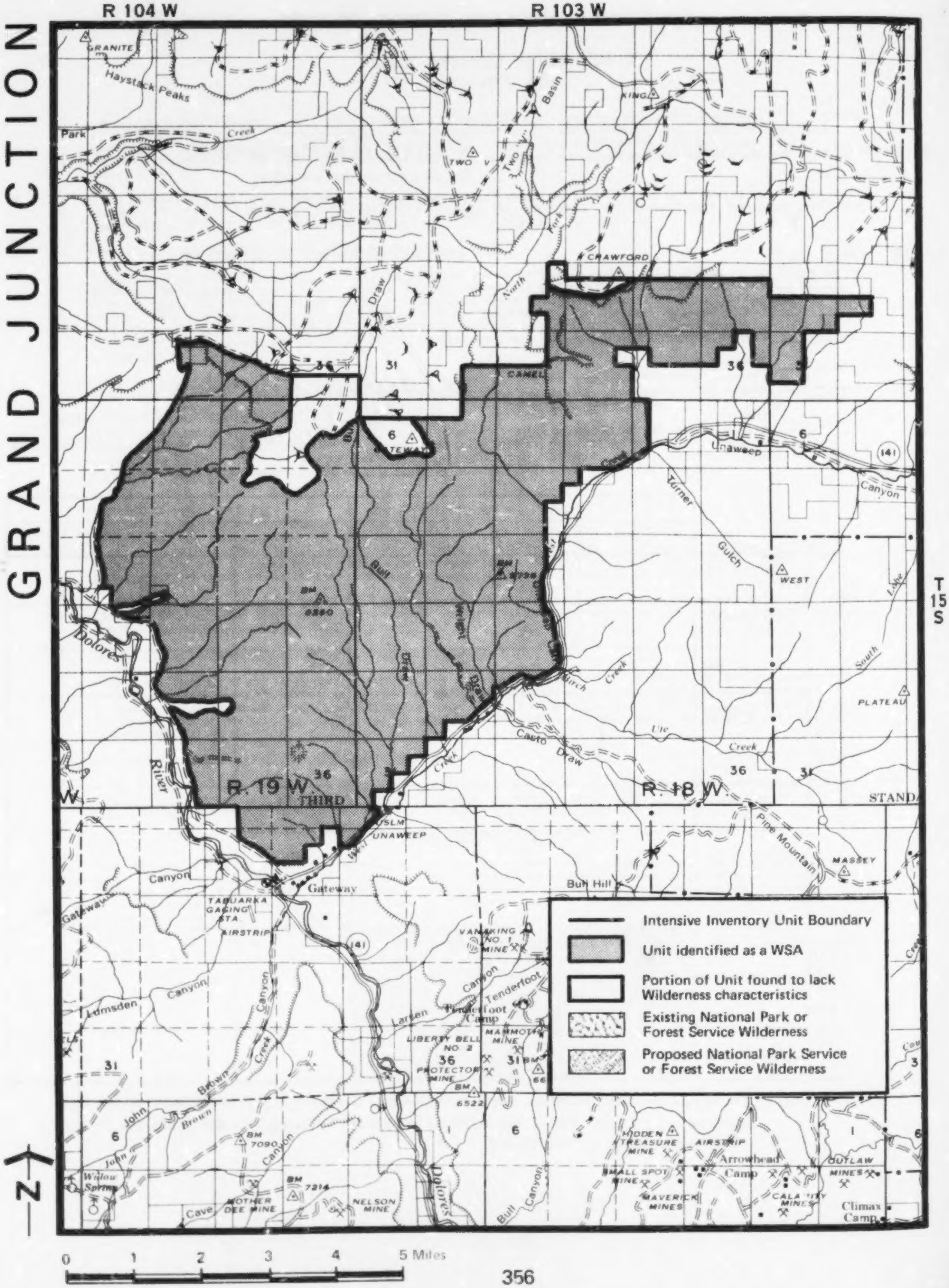
GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:
25 Colorado
____ Utah
3 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:
21 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
7 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
____ # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOM-MENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRON-MENTAL GP.	3			2		1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		3		3		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.		2		2		
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	18	2		18		2
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	18		3
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	7		
	NO RECOM-MENDATION	▨	▨	▨			

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-070-132 The Palisade


R 104 W
R 103 W
GRAND JUNCTION
T 15 S
R. 19 W
R. 18 W
GRANITE
Haystack Peaks
Park
Creek
TWO V
Two V Basin
KING
North Fork
CRAWFORD
Draw
CAMEL
GATEWAY
Bull Draw
Unaweep
Canyon
141
Turner Gulch
WEST
South
PLATEAU
Lake
Birch Creek
Ute Creek
Casto Draw
Creek
Dolores
River
THIRD
USLM UNAWEEP
Gateway
TABUARKA GAGING STA
AIRSTRIP
Canyon
Gateway
Pine Mountain
MASSEY
Bull Hill
STAND
VANAKING NO 1 MINE
Tenderfoot
Tenderfoot Camp
Larsen
Canyon
LIBERTY BELL NO. 2
MAMMOTH MINE
PROTECTOR MINE
BM 6522
Lumsden
Canyon
Brown
Creek
John Brown
BM 7090
BM 7214
MOTHER DEE MINE
NELSON MINE
Willow Spring
Cave
Dolores
Bull Canyon
HIDDEN TREASURE MINE
AIRSTRIP
Arrowhead Camp
SMALL SPOT MINE
MAVERICK MINES
CALAMITY MINES
OUTLAW MINES
Climax Camp
BM 6280
BM 6735
36
31
6
N
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

CO-070-132
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

THE PALISADE

CO-070-132

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 27,700 acres intensively inventoried
26,120 acres proposed as WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
26,050 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: X Yes ____ No

Additions 0 acres Deletions 70 acres

GENERAL LOCATION: North of Gateway (Mesa County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: A 27,700 acre unit was proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: A 27,700 acre unit was intensively inventoried.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: Field checks during the intensive inventory resulted in 1,580 acres being excluded from the unit. Imprints having a significant impact on naturalness included: a brush removal, several roads, structures, powerlines and fences. The remaining 26,120 acres were determined to be essentially natural in character. This unit was recommended as a WSA.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: All land within the unit are public lands administered by the BLM. Land ownership bordering the unit is a mixture of public and private lands, with BLM wilderness inventory unit CO-070-132A lying to the west. Approximately eighty percent of the unit has been leased for oil and gas. Several grazing allotments and a number of mining claims exist in the unit.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: This unit is characterized by vertical cliffs, deep rugged canyons, and rolling to flat desert valley bottoms dissected by gulches. The higher elevations consist of open, sloping to flat grasslands and meadows with moderate to heavy stands of intermixed pinyon, juniper, and oak brush. The upper drainages contain some aspen and ponderosa pine, and some riparian vegetation exists along North Fork. The lower elevations have pinyon-juniper and desert shrubs.

Imprints of Man: The imprints of man that exist within the unit are either of minor impact, well screened, and/or are dispersed enough so as to cumulatively or singly be substantially unnoticeable leaving the entire unit affected primarily by the forces of nature. These imprints include the remains of an old sawmill, several ways in the east, several fencelines and corrals in the west, and a short way on Pinon Mesa leading to an empty reservoir. Field checks determined there is a short access road to an abandoned drill pad in the western portion of the unit. This has been cherry-stemmed decreasing the size of the unit by 70 acres.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eight comments addressed the naturalness of the unit. Four comments said the area is natural and cited various physical characteristics of the unit such as the rugged topography. Four comments said the unit is not natural and referenced such things as the old mine on top of The Palisade, farms around the base of the area, uranium claims, stockponds, fences, powerlines and mining structures. Several comments addressed roads. Three comments said there are no roads in the unit while five said there are roads. Of the latter, four of these were general and one said there was a road up Bull Draw.

Through the intensive inventory, BLM has determined that all imprints within this unit do not have a significant impact on naturalness. The farms outside the unit cannot be considered during the inventory. There are no known powerlines within the area. The old mine on top of The Palisade is not visible in the unit. The fences in the unit are remotely spaced so they have a minimal impact on naturalness. The single reservoir within the unit has a very limited area of visibility primarily due to vegetative and topographic screening. A way up Bull Draw has had some construction in the past but appears to be revegetating naturally and receives minimal use.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: The Palisade offers outstanding opportunities for solitude primarily due to topographic screening in the many gulches and canyons in the lower elevations. The heavy vegetative screening and difficult accessibility of the upper elevations enhances opportunities for solitude. A feeling of spaciousness occurs because of the outstanding views one is exposed to on top of the unit. Because of the numerous isolated pockets in the lower areas, one is also able to experience intimate solitude. The blocked configuration of the unit enhances opportunities for solitude by insuring that outside influences will not disrupt feelings of seclusion.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Four comments said the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude and five comments said the unit does not have such opportunities. The reasons given for outstanding solitude included steep ridges, deep canyons, benches and The Palisade itself. Five comments stated the area lacked outstanding opportunities for solitude and referenced various sights and sounds outside the unit and imprints of man. One comment said the area was too small.

BLM's recommendation on 2/1/80 was that the unit possessed outstanding opportunities for solitude due to the above rationale. Outside sights and sounds cannot be considered during the inventory phase unless the impact is so extremely imposing that it cannot be ignored. This is according to BLM policy. Outside sights and sounds will normally be evaluated during the study phase. The unit's size of 26,050 acres together with its blocked configuration and high degree of topographic screening are still considered the main reasons this unit does provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Outside sights and sounds may affect solitude on the fringe of the unit, but the unit's topographic diversity and large size are sufficient to provide numerous opportunities for outstanding solitude away from this fringe.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: The Palisade unit provides a rugged and varied landscape in which to hike, backpack, sightsee, horseback ride, climb, hunt, trap, fish, photograph, or study nature. Scenic views of the LaSal Mountains in Utah are excellent. The hiker or backpacker is presented with a high degree of challenge and risk due to the variety and steepness of the terrain in parts of the unit. In addition, the hiker is constantly exposed to outstanding scenery both within and outside the unit. Opportunities exist to view and photograph the Fritillary butterfly in one of the two critical habitats in Colorado. Hunting and trapping are considered fair to good in the unit. Fishing is considered excellent for brook and rainbow trout in the North Fork of West Creek. Overnight camping areas for backpackers are plentiful. Perennial water is also available in part of the unit.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Three comments said the area possessed outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation and cited such activities as hiking, rock climbing, sightseeing, photography, camping and fishing. One comment said the unit was too small and had poor "climbing rock" to offer outstanding opportunities.

BLM's recommendation on 2/1/80 was that the unit possessed outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation based on the above rationale. There are more than 26,000 acres in the unit and this helps to provide outstanding opportunities. Although there are many activities considered to be outstanding in the unit, rock climbing is not one of them. The sandstone and granite walls are not considered particularly challenging and they are common in the Unaweep Canyon, Dolores River area.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: The Palisade, the rocky spine that cuts the unit north and south, is one of the most prominent features of the Dolores River Valley. It and many of the other rock features in the unit such as the hoodoos lend themselves well to interpretation. The most significant value is the presence of a rare butterfly, Nokomis Frittillary (Speyeria nokomishokomis). This butterfly is presently being considered for classification under the Endangered Species Act (1973). The habitat in use is in the southeastern corner of the unit and is one of two such habitats in the state. Approximately 75 percent of the butterfly's critical habitat in Unaweep Canyon is within the unit.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Seven comments were received stating the area had supplemental values. These included winter range for big game, diverse geology, a rare species of butterfly, scenic views, The Palisade, interesting rock formations and a winter range for eagles. Two general comments said the area did not have supplemental values.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

There are no significant impacts in this unit, therefore special rehabilitation measures are not needed. The 70 acres deleted from the unit were not considered to be reclaimable because of the very large cut banks in the disturbed area. Several comments stated the area does not have reclamation potential because of the semi-arid nature of the unit and the expense.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The Palisade area is a relatively large area consisting of 26,050 acres and is affected primarily by the forces of nature. Outstanding opportunities for solitude occur within the area as a result of the topographic screening that exists in many of the gulches and canyons. Dense vegetation in the higher elevations also enhances the opportunities for solitude. Opportunities for several types of primitive recreation are also considered to be outstanding. Several supplemental values exist within the area. These include outstanding scenery, interesting geologic features, as well as winter habitat for deer, elk, and golden eagles. The Palisade area meets all of the criteria necessary for recommending the unit as a Wilderness Study Area.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions. Three comments were received stating there is conflict between oil and gas and uranium development and WSA designation. One person commented that there is a conflict with grazing. Another person expressed concern that WSA designation would restrict access to other areas. A utility company said that air quality changes over WSA's could restrict power plant sites. Three comments said the area should not qualify as a WSA because of the influence of vehicles on the roads adjacent to the unit.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

The Palisade
CO 070 132

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 21

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 21
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:
14 Personal Letters
___ Postcards
5 Public Comments Forms
___ Meetings
2 Phone Calls
___ Other

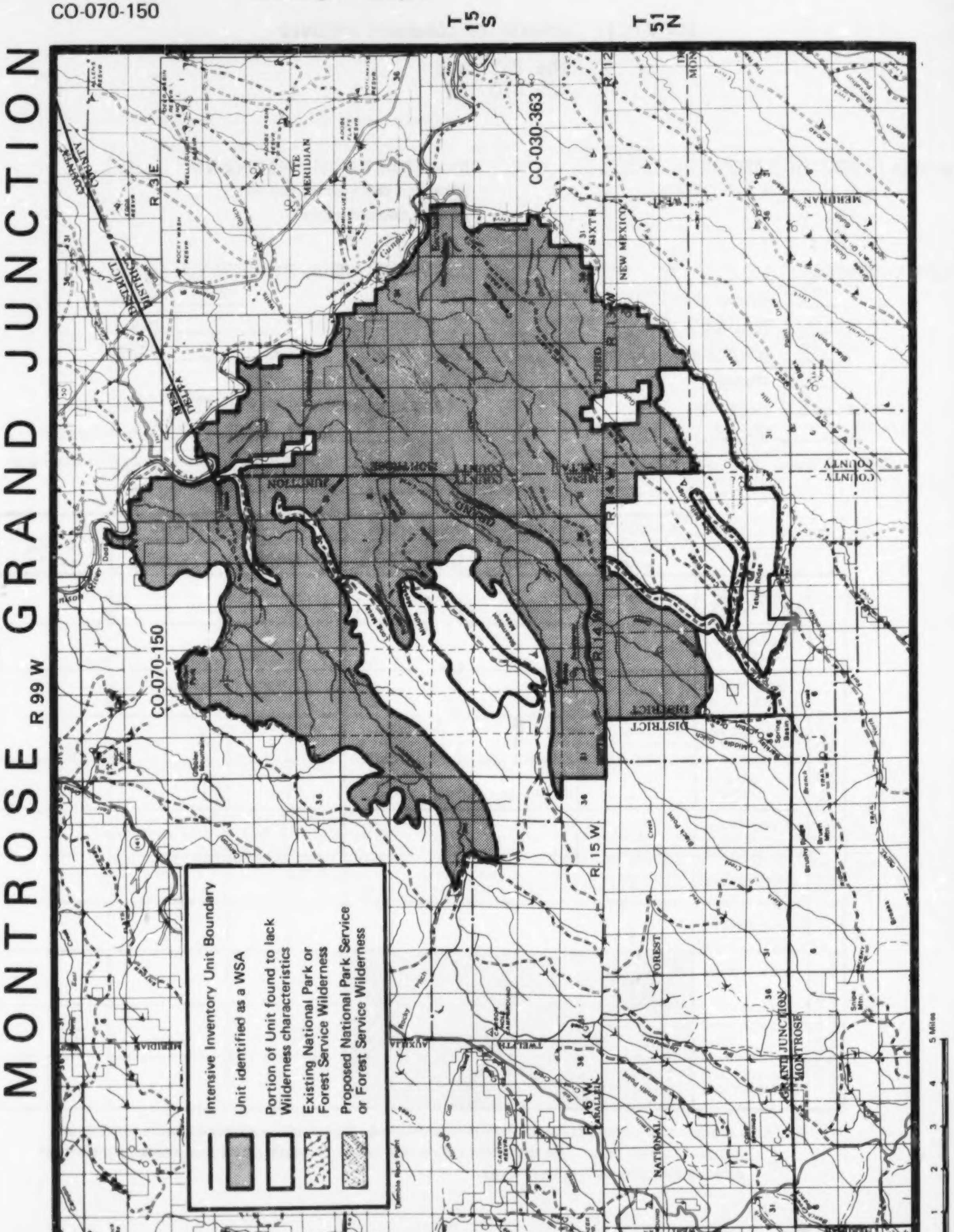
GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:
20 Colorado
___ Utah
1 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:
11 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
10 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
___ # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	2			1		1
	INDUSTRY/BUSINESS		2		2		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.		3		3		
	STATE GOVT.	1			1		
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	7	5		12		
	OTHER	1			1		
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	10		1
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	10		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨			

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-030-363 Dominguez Canyon
CO-070-150


MONTROSE
R 99 W
GRAND JUNCTION
T 15 S
T 51 N
CO-030-363
CO-070-150
R 3 E
UTE MERIDIAN
NEW MEXICO
SIXTH
THIRD
MESA
DELTA
COUNTY
DISTRICT
R 12 W
R 14 W
R 15 W
R 16 W
NATIONAL
FOREST
GRAND JUNCTION
MONTROSE
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

N

CO-030-363
CO-070-150
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

DOMINGUEZ CANYON

CO-030-363
CO-070-150

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 81,087 acres intensively inventoried (Montrose District-47,487; Grand Junction District-33,600)
79,480 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation (Montrose District-47,490; Grand Junction District-31,990)
75,800 acres identified as a WSA (Montrose District-43,810; Grand Junction District-31,990)

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: _X_ Yes ____ No

Additions _0_ acres Deletions 3,680 acres

GENERAL LOCATION: Thirteen miles west of Delta (Mesa, Delta and Montrose Counties)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: The initial inventory situation evaluation recommended that 48,560 acres within unit CO-030-363 be intensively inventoried. The situation evaluation for unit CO-070-150 recommended 30,000 acres for intensive inventory. Although these units were inventoried separately, they represent a single unit that was divided by an administrative boundary.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: Several boundary adjustments were made in both units following field checks and the public comment period (5/79 to 7/79). A total of 1,161 acres in five separate deletions were omitted from unit CO-030-363. These areas were deleted due to the presence of roads, a developed recreation site, and an agricultural area. 47,487 acres of unit CO-030-363 were identified for intensive inventory following these boundary adjustments. Approximately 4,200 acres were added to unit CO-070-150 when field checks more accurately mapped the boundaries of chainings, which resulted in the inclusion of additional natural lands. Lands were also added to this unit when field study showed that a road was, in fact, a way. Another 1,300 acres were deleted from CO-070-150 because these lands had been chained. 33,600 acres in unit CO-070-150 were identified for intensive inventory.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: Units CO-030-363 and CO-070-150 were intensively inventoried as one unit during the summer of 1979. Approximately 79,480 acres were proposed as a WSA following several boundary adjustments. Two deletions totalling approximately 1,606 acres were made as a result of field study. These deletions excluded a chained area and a road.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: This unit consists of the combined Grand Junction (CO-070-150) and Montrose (CO-030-363) Districts Dominguez Canyon Inventory units after intensive inventory boundary adjustments. The combined acreage is 75,800 acres of public land administered by the BLM. There are 600 acres of state land inholdings within the unit but this area is not included in the inventory unit acreage nor is it inventoried for wilderness characteristics. The legal description of these state lands administered by the Division of Wildlife is: NE¼SW¼, S½SW¼, SW¼SE¼ section 33, T. 15 S., R. 13 W., 6th P.M.; lot 1 section 7; lots 3, 4 section 8; NE¼SW¼, NW¼SE¼, NW¼ Section 17; and E½NE¼ section 18; T. 51 N., R. 13 W., the New Mexico Meridian. The entire area is leased for grazing and portions are leased for oil and gas. There are unpatented mining claims within the unit, mostly in Big Dominguez Canyon. It is surrounded by a mixture of public, private and National Forest lands.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: This unit is characterized by two major canyon systems draining northeast off the Uncompahgre Plateau into the Gunnison River. These drainage patterns have contributed to the formation of isolated northeast-southwest trending mesas. Vegetation ranges from riparian vegetation and Douglas fir in the canyons to pinyon-juniper woodlands with sage glades on the mesas.

Imprints of Man: The mesas within the unit appear to be affected primarily by the forces of nature. Imprints on the mesas include ways, stock reservoirs, corrals and a few short sections of fence. These imprints of man which are minor in that individually they affect only a small portion of the unit. Rolling topography in conjunction with dense pinyon-juniper vegetation reduce the visibility of the man-made imprints within the unit. Both of the canyon systems appear to be affected primarily by the forces of nature except for several minor modifications.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Thirty comments were received which agreed with BLM's determination that the unit is primarily natural in character. Seven comments were received which stated the unit is not natural in appearance. These comments stated the area contains ways, fences, cabins, mining impacts, reservoirs, a chained area and woodcutting areas. The ways within the unit are substantially unnoticeable and screened by topographic relief and relatively thick stands of pinyon-juniper vegetation. Fences are substantially unnoticeable and are permitted within a WSA. There are no chained areas within this unit. Some woodcutting for firewood is found within the unit but the imprint of man is not substantially noticeable. The majority of woodcutting areas has been excluded from the unit after a field evaluation (7/80.) The cabins at the mouth of Dominguez Canyon have been determined to not significantly impact the unit's naturalness because they are limited in their visibility. Three mining exploration holes in Big Dominguez Canyon have also been determined to have minimal impact on the unit's naturalness. Outside impacts cannot be considered during the inventory phase.

Seven comments stated the unit is roadless. Ten comments were received which stated the unit contained roads. One of these comments said there is a road into Dominguez Canyon, a road on Triangle Mesa, and a road on the Escalante River (Tatum Ridge). The road into Dominguez Canyon was previously excluded. The access route on Triangle Mesa has received no maintenance and is substantially unnoticeable. The Tatum Ridge access, after field evaluation (7/80), was determined to be a road and is now excluded from the unit along with numerous vehicle ways whose cumulative impact impairs the natural appearance of the land. Also, the way on McCarty Bench in conjunction with the mineral activity was re-evaluated as to its impact on naturalness due to public comment and was deleted from the unit. Totally, these deletions resulted in a boundary adjustment of 3,680 acres.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Topographic screening is provided by the deep, rugged canyons and by steep-sided isolated buttes. The dense pinyon-juniper woodland which covers much of the unit provides vegetative screening. From the glades and ridges on the mesas, the vast views of distant mountain peaks, plateaus and valleys impart a feeling of spaciousness while the deep canyons create feelings of seclusion and isolation. These combined factors provide outstanding opportunities for solitude within the Dominguez Canyon unit.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Thirty-five comments were received concerning solitude in the unit, agreeing with the intensive inventory conclusion the outstanding opportunities for solitude were present. The presence of the winding canyons and forested mesa tops were reasons most often given. Eight comments said the unit does not have outstanding opportunities. Most of these comments stated that the D&RGW railroad detracted from solitude; however, the railroad is located outside the unit. This outside sights and sounds are not evaluated in the inventory phase but will be considered in the study phase of the wilderness review process.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: The highly scenic Dominguez Canyons provide easy-to-moderate hiking and riding routes. More challenging cross-country routes are available throughout much of the rest of the unit which is characterized by rugged tributary canyons, isolated buttes and steep-sided mesas. Rock climbing is possible on many of the canyon walls and rocky ledges. The presence of perennial water in the Dominguez Creeks enhances the recreation opportunities in the unit. Other recreation pursuits available within the area are hunting, cross-country skiing, photography and sightseeing. The high scenic quality and diversity of topography within the unit provide for outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Thirty-two comments were received stating the unit has outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The majority comments stated that outstanding opportunities were present mostly for hiking, climbing, or camping. Three comments said the unit did not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation due to the flash flood hazard, lack of water, or the presence of insects. Both Big and Little Dominguez Creeks offer a year round water supply, while the flash flood and insect factors do not preclude outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation from being present.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: Erosion has exposed seven sedimentary strata and a precambrian bedrock of schist, gneiss and granite. This presents a period of geologic history dating back 600 million years. Numerous geomorphic features such as hoodoos, alcoves and sheer-walled canyons are also visible in this unit, creating a geologically and scenically interesting environment. This unit is also rich in fossilized bones (from the late Jurassic Period) which include portions of the largest dinosaur ever found (Ultrasauras). The unit contains three rare and endangered plant species and a variety of archeological sites.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Forty-nine comments were received concerning supplemental values. All the comments stated that all or a portion of the values as listed above were present. Two general comments said the unit does not have any supplemental values.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

The way on Triangle Mesa could have its visual impact reduced by hand labor (minor earth work and reseeding). Twenty-two comments of the twenty-four received stated that the imprints of man present in the unit could be reclaimed with hand labor. The other two comments said that it would be economically unfeasible to reclaim the impacts, but no specific impacts were cited.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The combined acreage of contiguous inventory units CO-070-363 and CO-070-150 is 75,800 - sufficient size to make practicable its use and preservation in an unimpaired condition. The area is primarily natural in character with some minor imprints of man consisting mainly of ways and range management projects such as stock ponds, fences and corrals. With the exception of one way, the imprints of man which are present within the unit do not substantially impair the naturalness of the area. The way which is moderately noticeable could be returned to a natural condition by hand labor and natural rehabilitation. Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation are present within the unit due to the rugged and scenic nature of the area's canyons and mesas. The unit also contains several supplemental values which enhance the wilderness quality of the area. The area qualifies in all wilderness characteristics as a WSA. This has been substantiated by a large number of public comments. The unit is recommended as a WSA.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

Several comments were received stating there may be conflicts with development of oil and gas and uranium in the unit. Three comments said grazing use could conflict. Three comments said there may be a conflict with wood gathering or timber harvesting. One comment expressed concern that WSA designation would hinder access to USFS lands. One utility company expressed concern that changes in air quality classes over WSA's could restrict power plant sites. Several comments referred to the influence of the railroad along the Gunnison River and farms and ranches outside the area as a conflict with WSA designation. Ten comments listed possible conflicts with the proposed Dominguez Dam. At this time, BLM does not foresee any conflicts between the wilderness review and the proposed Dominquez Project.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Dominguez Canyon
CO 030 363
CO 070 150

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 74

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 87
(Often one comment is endorsed by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

41 Personal Letters
2 Postcards
24 Public Comments Forms
5 Meetings
1 Phone Calls
1 Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

71 Colorado
1 Utah
2 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

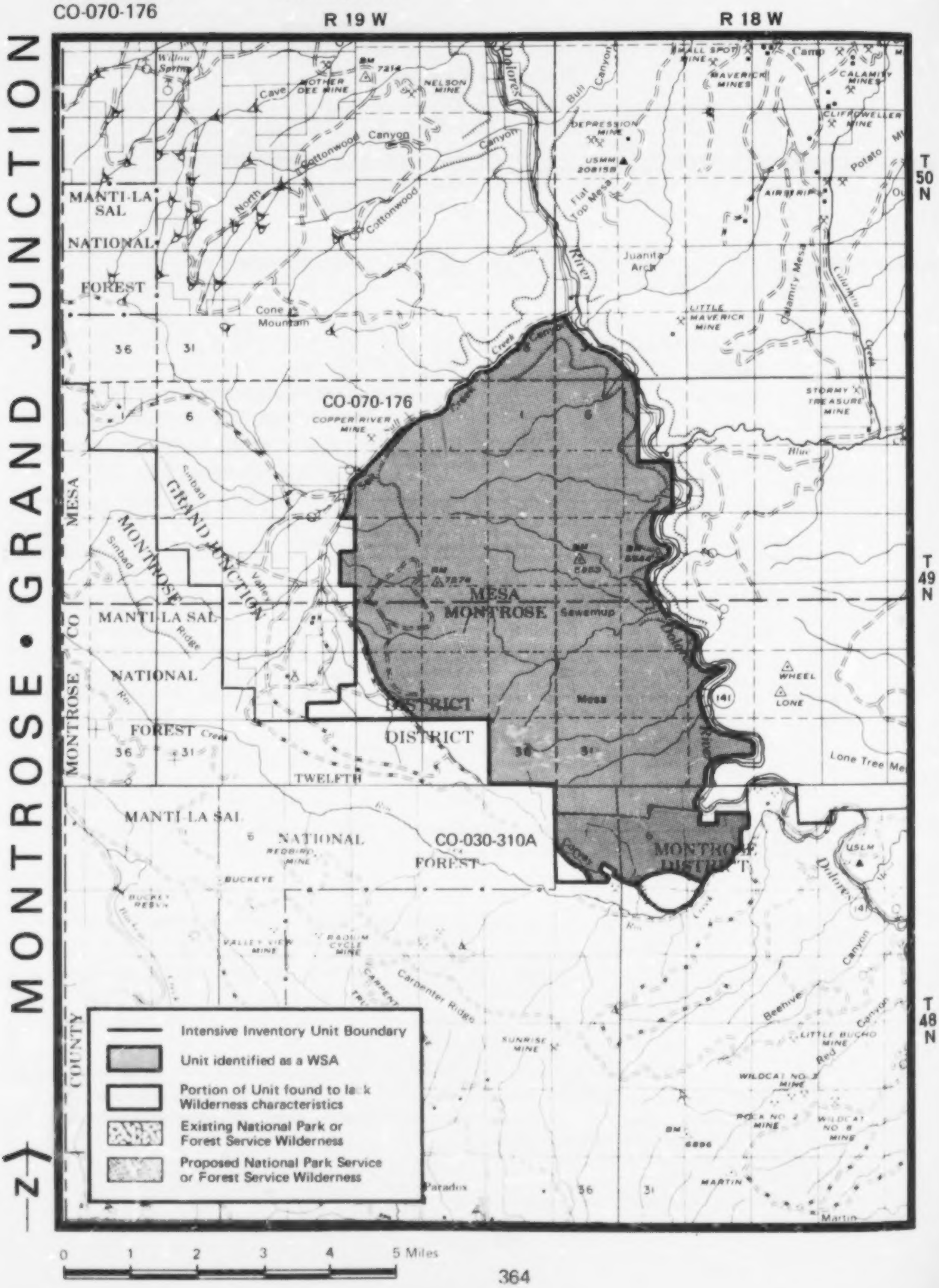
54 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
17 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
3 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	6			4	1	1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS	1	6		7		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.		8		8		
	STATE GOVT.			1	1		
	FEDERAL GOVT.			1		1	
	INDIVIDUAL	46	3	1	50		
	OTHER	1			1		
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	52	1	1
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	17		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	2	1	

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-030-310A
CO-070-176

Sewemup Mesa


R 19 W
R 18 W
T 50 N
T 49 N
T 48 N
N
Willow Spring
Cave
MOTHER DEE MINE
NELSON MINE
Dolores
Bull Canyon
SMALL SPOT MINE
Camp
MAVERICK MINES
CALAMITY MINES
CLIFFDWELLER MINE
DEPRESSION MINE
Cottonwood Canyon
North Cottonwood
Canyon
Flat Top Mesa
AIRSTRIP
Potato
MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST
Juanita Arch
River
Calamity Mesa
Cone Mountain
LITTLE MAVERICK MINE
Creek
36
31
6
CO-070-176
COPPER RIVER MINE
STORMY TREASURE MINE
Blue
MESA
Sinbad
GRAND JUNCTION
MONTROSE
Valley
MESA MONTROSE
Sewemup
Dolores
MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST
Ridge
DISTRICT
WHEEL
LONE
141
MONTROSE CO
COUNTY
Mesa
DISTRICT
Lone Tree Mesa
TWELFTH
MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST
REDBIRD MINE
CO-030-310A
MONTROSE DISTRICT
USLM
BUCKEYE
VALLEY VIEW MINE
RADIUM CYCLE MINE
Carpenter Ridge
Canyon
Beehive
LITTLE BUCKO MINE
Red Canyon
SUNRISE MINE
WILDCAT NO. 2 MINE
ROCK NO. 2 MINE
WILDCAT NO. 8 MINE
6896
Paradox
MARTIN
Martin
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

CO-070-176
CO-030-310A
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

SEWEMUP MESA

CO-070-176
CO-030-310A

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

SIZE: 19,740 total acres intensively inventoried (Grand Junction District - 17,900 acres; Montrose District - 1,840 acres)
19,140 total acres proposed as WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation (both Grand Junction and Montrose Districts)
19,140 acres identified as a WSA (both Grand Junction and Montrose Districts)

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposed: ____ Yes __X__ No

GENERAL LOCATION: Approximately eleven miles south of Gateway (Mesa and Montrose Counties)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: A 19,740 acre unit was proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: A 19,740 acre unit was identified for intensive inventory as a result of public comment and field check.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: During the intensive inventory 600 acres were deleted because portions of the areas were not primarily natural and a road separated them from the main body of the unit. A total acreage of 19,140 is being recommended as a wilderness study area.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: All land within the unit is public land administered by the BLM. About one-tenth of the unit is under grazing permit and roughly half of the unit is leased for oil and gas. Several mining claims exist in the Sinbad Valley portion of the unit; however, no mining is currently taking place. The unit is surrounded mostly by public land with some private land on the eastern, western, and southern borders.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The Sewemup Mesa unit consists of two prominent geologic features; the sloping mesa top of Sewemup Mesa and the fringes of the collapsed salt dome of Sinbad Valley. Most of the Sinbad Valley portion of the unit consists of a landscape sloping down off of the cliff face which surrounds Sewemup Mesa. Vegetation in Sinbad Valley consists of a combination of pinyon-juniper woodlands and sagebrush flats with open, grassy meadows. Sewemup Mesa is an isolated mesa top with sheer cliff faces that are five to seven hundred feet high. The mesa top is highly dissected by numerous shallow canyon systems. Pinyon-juniper woodlands are the predominate vegetation type of the mesa top.

Imprints of Man: Most of the imprints of man are located in the Sinbad Valley portion of the unit. All three of the ways that occur in this area are considered to have a minimal impact on the naturalness due to minimal disturbance and effective vegetative screening. The upland area of Sewemup Mesa contains no imprints of man and is considered to be a pristine natural environment.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Two comments said the area was natural and one comment said the area was not natural. The latter comment noted the presence of a metal building in Sinbad Valley. The intensive inventory report states there is a green metal building located in Sinbad Valley. The building is about 6 feet square and 8 feet high and stores instruments for a stream guage on Salt Creek. This building located on the very edge of the unit was determined to not have a significant impact on naturalness.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: The Sewemup Mesa unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. The presence of numerous drainages on the mesa creates a landscape in which people can become dispersed without encountering other people. Outstanding opportunities for solitude are intensified by the rolling topography of the mesa top. The dense pinyon-juniper woodland on the upper part of Sewemup Mesa also enhances opportunities for solitude. The presence of a sheer cliff wall around most of the mesa top also adds to the solitude of the unit since it provides an almost impassable barrier to the outside world. The physical size of the area is the main factor which enables this unit to contain outstanding opportunities for solitude in that it provides a large area in which people are free to roam.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Two comments were received that stated the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude. One comment said this was based on the unit's drainage pattern and size. Three comments said the area was lacking in outstanding opportunities for solitude. Man's imprint in the unit was given as one reason for the lack of solitude. Specifically, roads visible in Sinbad Valley outside the unit were considered to decrease opportunities for solitude.

BLM's recommendation on 2/1/80 was that the unit possessed outstanding opportunities for solitude. No comments were received that would alter this recommendation.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: The Sewemup Mesa unit contains outstanding opportunities for day hiking, backpacking, scenic viewing, nature study, and technical rock climbing. The high degree of landscape diversity created by the numerous drainages flowing off Sewemup Mesa provide an interesting landscape that is attractive to the day hiker and the backpacker. Other interesting features such as the extensive outcroppings of slickrock and the prominent Entrada Knolls in the northwestern corner of the mesa also add to the ability of the landscape to provide outstanding opportunities for these types of primitive recreation. The diversity of vegetation types within the unit also adds to the hiking or backpacking experience. This unit also contains outstanding opportunities for technical rock climbing on the Wingate Cliff faces that surround most of Sewemup Mesa.

Evaluation of Public Comments: One comment was received that said the area has outstanding opportunities and one comment said the area does not have such opportunities. The latter comment said grazing and oil and gas development decreased these opportunities. One comment stated rock climbing, hiking, backpacking, scenic viewing and photography were considered outstanding opportunities in the unit.

BLM's recommendation on 2/1/80 was that the unit possessed outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: Several significant supplemental values exist within the Sewemup Mesa unit. Sewemup Mesa derives its name from the cattle rustling practices of the McCarty gang. The unit also contains archaeological values. The collapsed salt dome of the Sinbad Valley portion of the unit provides an example of an uncommon geologic feature. Sewemup Mesa is also one of the last areas in this region which represents an ecosystem undisturbed by the workings of man.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Two comments stated there are supplemental values within the unit. These include the areas of geology, wildlife, archaeology and ecological values.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

Area Description: All imprints of man which occur within the confines of the area are considered to have a minor impact on the naturalness. Only one comment was received concerning reclamation potential. It stated the area had low potential for reclamation because it was too arid.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFYING THIS UNIT AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

After boundary adjustments, the combined acreages of contiguous inventory units CO-070-176 and CO-030-310A is 19,140. The area is very natural, being affected primarily by the forces of nature. Outstanding opportunities for solitude occur within the area as a result of the gently rolling topography on top of the mesa, the relatively dense pinyon-juniper woodland, and the relative difficulty of access onto the top of the mesa. Opportunities for day hiking, backpacking, scenic viewing, nature study, and technical rock climbing are outstanding. The scenic landscape helps to provide outstanding primitive recreation opportunities. The unit additionally contains several supplemental values which include the cultural, geologic and ecological values. This unit meets all of the criteria for a Wilderness Study Area.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions. Several comments said that WSA designation would conflict with mineral development in the unit. These comments cited conflicts with oil and gas, uranium, and coal. One commenter said that a conflict may exist with the grazing permits in the unit but the specific nature of the conflict was not given. A utility company expressed concern that changes in air quality classes over WSA's could restrict power plant sites.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Sewemup Mesa
CO 030 310A
CO 070 176

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 17

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 21
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:
16 Personal Letters
Postcards
1 Public Comments Forms
Meetings
Phone Calls
Other

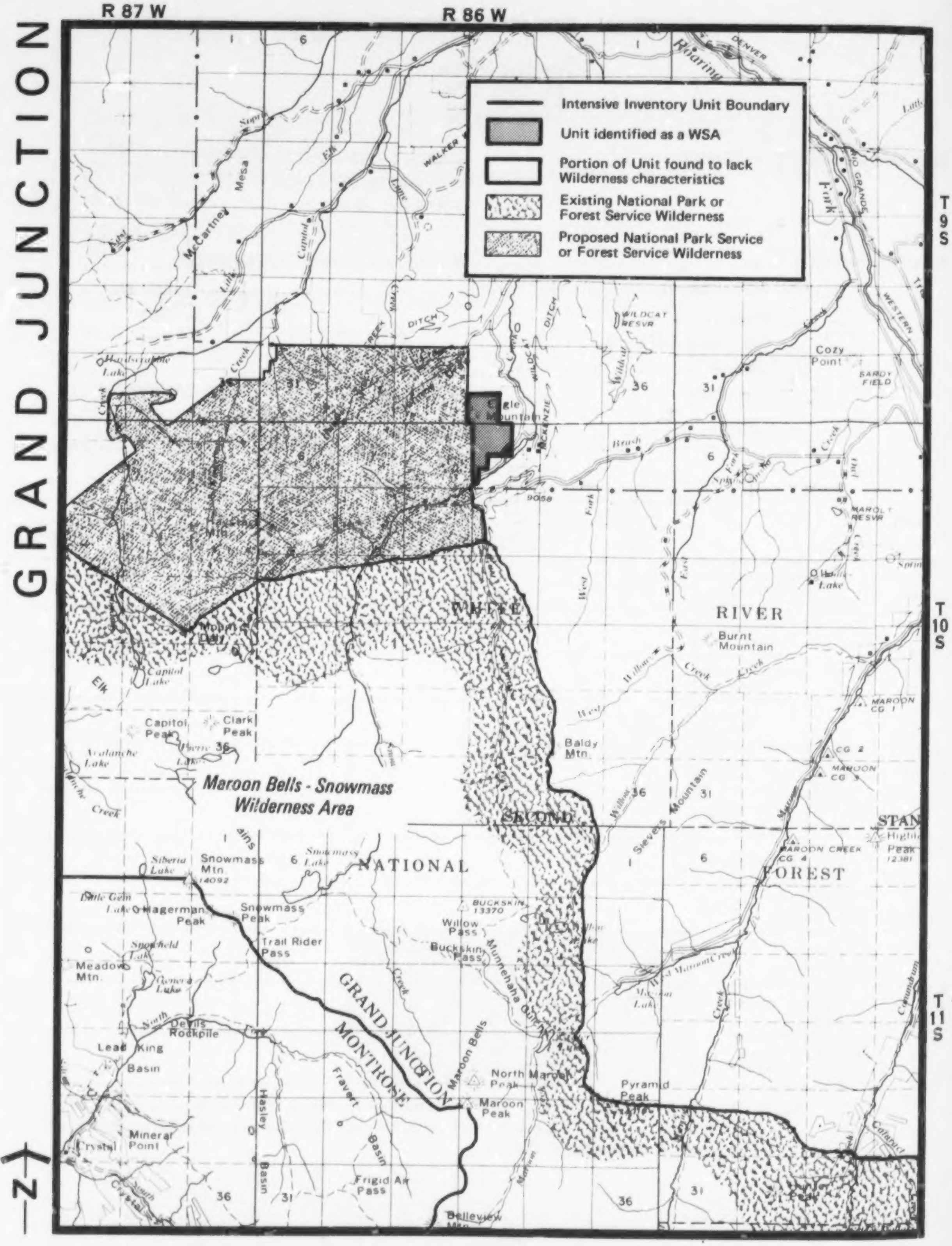
GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:
16 Colorado
Utah
1 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:
11 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
5 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	3			2		1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		3		3		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.		1		1		
	STATE GOVT.	1		1	2		
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	7	1		8		
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	10		1
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	5		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	1		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-070-392 Eagle Mountain


R 87 W
R 86 W
T 9 S
T 10 S
T 11 S
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
Eagle Mountain
Maroon Bells - Snowmass Wilderness Area
WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST
Capitol Peak
Clark Peak
Snowmass Mtn. 14092
Hagerman Peak
Snowmass Peak
Trail Rider Pass
Buckskin 13370
Willow Pass
Buckskin Pass
North Maroon Peak
Maroon Peak
Pyramid Peak
Burnt Mountain
Baldy Mtn.
Cozy Point
Sievers Mountain
Maroon Creek CG 4
Highland Peak 12381
Meadow Mtn.
Lead King Basin
Devils Rockpile
Mineral Point
Crystal
Frigid Air Pass
Belleview Mtn.
GRAND JUNCTION
MONTROSE
0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles
N

CO-070-392
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

EAGLE MOUNTAIN

CO-070-392

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 346 acres intensively inventoried
330 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
330 acres identified as a WSA (Adjacent to USFS proposed Wilderness #A2180 - 119,300 acres)

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ___Yes X No

GENERAL LOCATION: South of Glenwood Springs, northwest of Aspen (Pitkin County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: A 346 acre unit was proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: As a result of public comments and a field check, a 346 acre unit was intensively inventoried.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: Sixteen acres were deleted from the unit as a result of field checking the alignment of the road in the southern portion of the unit during the intensive inventory. A total of 330 acres were proposed for inclusion in the Wilderness Study Area.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: All lands within the Wilderness Study Area are public lands administered by the BLM. The U.S. Forest Service has recommended land adjoining the unit on the west and south in their RARE II study for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The Eagle Mountain unit is characterized by steep topography, sandstone outcroppings and a few deep drainages. The elevation ranges from 8,200 feet to 9,937 feet on the top of Eagle Mountain. Oak brush and ponderosa pine dominate the lower slopes with aspen growing in the drainages. As the elevation increases spruce-fir and aspen dominate. The majority of the unit is densely vegetated.

Imprints of Man: The major imprints of man were eliminated from the unit in the intensive inventory. A maintained Forest Service road crossed through the unit in three separate sections near the southern boundary so each was deleted from the unit. Within the unit, only one minor modification exists. An old, delapidated wooden rail corral which is located in a dense aspen stand, barely visible with the existing vegetative screening. with the existing vegetative screening.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Four comments agreed with the BLM's recommendation that the unit is substantially natural and that the impact of man, a rail corral, will blend in with the natural setting.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: The Eagle Mountain unit does not possess outstanding opportunities for solitude by itself due to the topography which consists of a steep rise to the top of Eagle Mountain and small size of the unit. However, when considered with the land to the west in the Forest Service's RARE II proposal, the unit is a logical extension of a natural area possessing outstanding opportunities for solitude as there are no physical barriers topographic or vegetative separating the two areas.

Evaluation of Public Comments: One comment agreed with the BLM's recommendation that the unit has outstanding opportunities for solitude when considered with the adjacent Forest Service lands.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Due to the size, steep topography and dense vegetation of the unit, outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation do not exist solely within this unit. Sightseeing and photography are the most valuable primitive recreational activities available in this unit. Opportunities for hiking and hunting are available but due to the extreme steepness and small size, they are not considered outstanding. However, the unit is a logical extension of an area possessing outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation with no physical barriers separating the two areas.

Evaluation of Public Comments: One comment suggested that the area is suitable for a number of primitive and unconfined recreational activities including; hiking, observation of wildlife, rock climbing and photography.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: This unit is adjacent to Forest Service lands that have been proposed in their RARE II study for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Nine comments stated that the unit adjoins a U.S. Forest Service RARE II area proposed for wilderness designation. One comment suggested that the unit contains important wildlife habitat.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

No imprints of man within the unit are considered to have a significant impact on the unit's naturalness. No comments addressed this issue.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The Eagle Mountain unit by itself does not meet the criteria for a Wilderness Study Area. However, in conjunction with the adjoining area the Forest Service proposed in their RARE II study it would meet the necessary qualifications. The unit is a logical extension of the RARE II proposals with no physical or man-made barriers separating lands within this unit from the RARE II area.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

No comments addressed non-inventory information for the Eagle Mountain unit.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED
Eagle Mountain
CO 070 392

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 10

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 10
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:
7 Personal Letters
____ Postcards
3 Public Comments Forms
____ Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

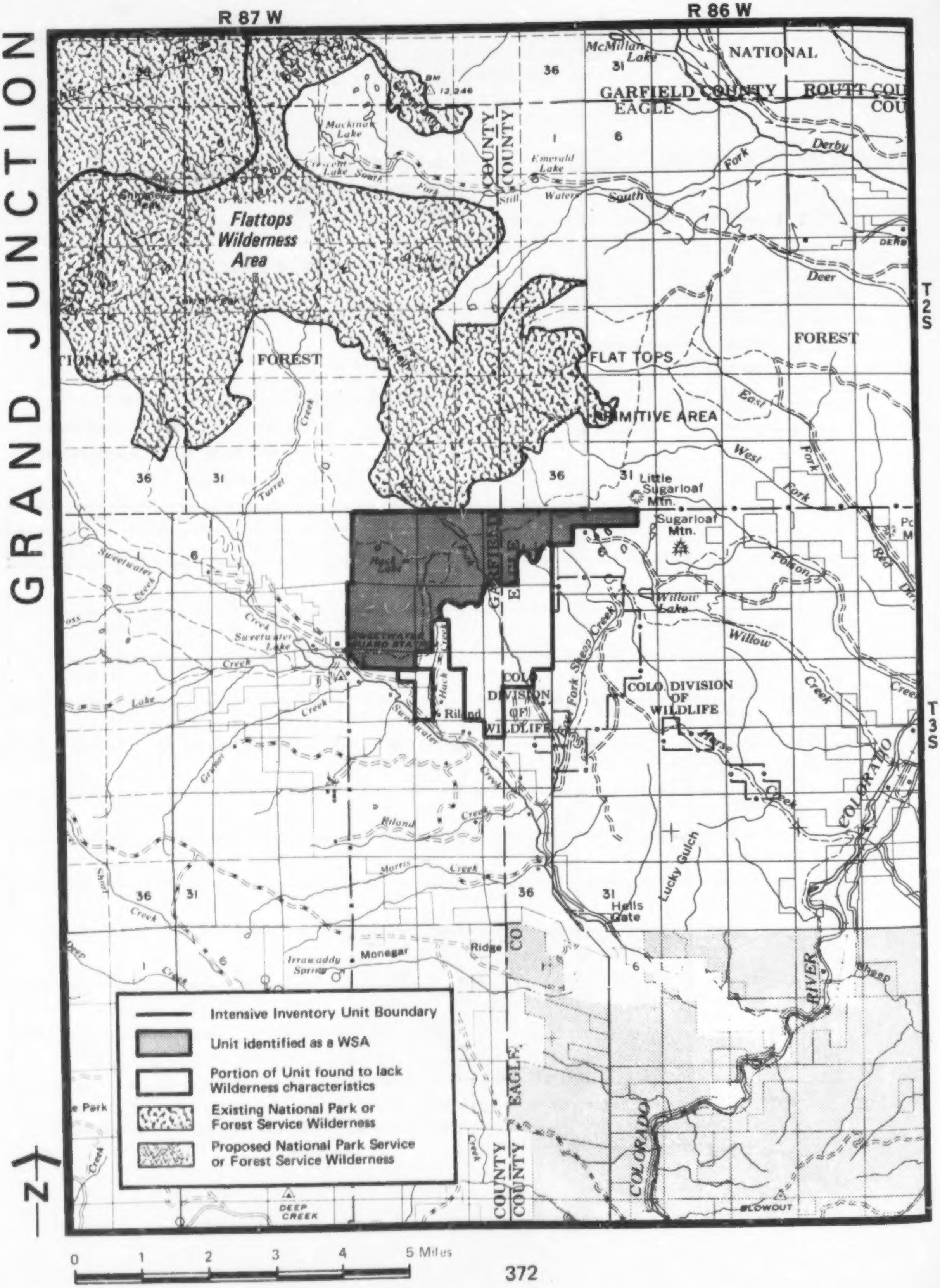
GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:
8 Colorado
0 Utah
2 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:
10 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
0 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
0 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	2			1		1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS						
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.	1			1		
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	7			6		1
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	8		2
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨			
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨			

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-070-425 Hack Lake


GRAND JUNCTION
R 87 W
R 86 W
T 2 S
T 3 S
NATIONAL
FOREST
GARFIELD COUNTY
EAGLE COUNTY
ROUTT COUNTY
McMillan Lake
Mackinaw Lake
Crescent Lake
Emerald Lake
Flattops Wilderness Area
FLAT TOPS PRIMITIVE AREA
Little Sugarloaf Mtn.
Sugarloaf Mtn.
Hack Lake
Sweetwater Lake
SWEETWATER GUARD STA.
Willow Lake
COLO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
Riland
Hells Gate
Lucky Gulch
Irrawaddy Spring
Monegar
Ridge
DEEP CREEK
BLOWOUT
COLORADO RIVER
Sweetwater Creek
Turret Creek
East Fork
West Fork
Deer Creek
Derby
Willow Creek
Horse Creek
Morris Creek
Sheep Creek
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
N
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

CO-070-425
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

HACK LAKE

CO-070-425

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 5,300 acres intensively inventoried
3,360 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
3,360 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 proposal: _____ Yes __X__ No

GENERAL LOCATION: 60 miles Northeast of Glenwood Springs (Garfield & Eagle Counties)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: A 5,300 acre unit was proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: As a result of public comments and a field check, a 5,300 acre unit was intensively inventoried.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: The intensive inventory field check revealed a roads, several ways, water developments and a fenceline. After these impacts were deleted from the unit, a total acreage of 3,360 acres were proposed for inclusion in the Wilderness Study Area.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: The Hack Lake unit includes 3,360 acres of land administered by the BLM. A state wildlife area is contiguous to the east. The unit is divided into three grazing allotments. Two stock driveway withdrawals exist in Sections 1, 2, and 12 but the areas have not been used for these purposes in recent years.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The Hack Lake unit contains a mixture of rolling hills, cliffs, and steep terrain. The elevation ranges from 7600 feet in the SW corner to 11,034 feet in the NW corner. Two peaks within the unit are about 10,000 feet and several are in the 9,000 feet range. Aspen stands and dense spruce-fir forests characterize the northern half of the unit while oak, pinyon-juniper, and sagebrush are dominant in the southern half.

Imprints of Man: Within the area only minor modifications; a pack trail, cabins, and fencelines, constitute the imprints of man. These create a minimal impact to the naturalness because of effective topographic and vegetative screening. The dense spruce-fir and aspen vegetation combined with the rolling to steep topography conceal these imprints.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Two comments agreed with BLM's recommendation that the unit is in a natural condition and that the imprints of man (fence and cabins) are not substantial impacts to the unit's naturalness.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: With the numerous cliff-tops and stream drainages, outstanding opportunities for solitude do exist in this unit. Vegetative screening is an important factor adding to the feeling of solitude. Dense spruce-fir and aspen vegetation covers most of the unit, making it difficult to distinguish any other individuals or sounds. Atop the ridges and cliffs, as well as from many portions along the Ute Trail, perceptions of spaciousness are offered from the panoramic views.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Two comments agreed with the BLM's recommendation that sufficient vegetative screening and topographic relief exist for outstanding opportunities for solitude to be available. One commenter indicated that the narrow configuration of the eastern portion of the unit inhibits solitude. While this portion of the unit is narrow, sufficient vegetative and topographic screening is available to provide for solitude.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are present in the Hack Lake unit. The varied topography, diverse vegetation and wildlife, abundance of water, and access trails contribute to opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, photography and sightseeing. The "W Mountain" trail provides access from the unit into the Flattops Wilderness Area. The outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation available in the Hack Lake unit further enhance those opportunities present in the adjoining Flattops Wilderness Area.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Two comments agreed with the BLM's recommendation that outstanding opportunities for horseback riding, hiking, fishing, photography, nature study, and viewing wildlife and vegetation do exist in the unit. One comment indicated that outstanding opportunities do not exist because the unit contains nothing unique; while the unit perhaps does not contain any unique features, the access trails, abundance of water, diverse vegetation and wildlife do provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: The unit possesses educational and scenic values with an exposed lava flow along the Ute Trail and opportunities for wildlife observation. Ecological succession is demonstrated in the transition from the dry sage/oakbrush environment to moist swampy areas and aspen/fir. The log cabin and corral by Hack Lake may be of some historical interest. The "W Mountain" trail provides a viable route between the unit and the existing Flattops Wilderness Area to the north. The unit is located 1 1/2 hours from Glenwood Springs and adjacent to Sweetwater Resort, where guides and outfitters are based.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Three comments mentioned that being contiguous to the U.S. Forest Service Flattops Wilderness Area and the existence of lava flows as significant supplemental values. One comment mentioned the possibility of a historic stagecoach route in the unit and another the virgin forest stands as supplemental values.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

The primary impacts occurring within the unit are three fencelines and two cabins. The rail fences blend in well with the surroundings but the barbed wire fencelines create a contrast to the immediate area. However, the dense spruce-fir and aspen together with the rolling topography provide effective screening from the distance. The imprints of man adjacent to the cabins could be easily rehabilitated by hand. The cabin and corral are not out of character with the primitive setting.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Two comments agreed with the BLM's recommendation that the minor impacts of man that exist (fences and cabins) are screened by vegetation and topography and that they could be reclaimed by hand if necessary.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The unit appears to be in a predominately natural state with the existing imprints of man being substantially unnoticeable. The unit possesses outstanding opportunities for solitude as well as for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The unit is less than the required size, consisting of only 3,360 acres. However, the northern boundary of the unit adjoins an existing wilderness area. Access to this wilderness area from the Hack Lake unit is possible via the "W Mountain" trail; therefore, it appears practicable to manage this unit for wilderness values.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

Two comments were received with non-inventory information. The first suggested that the economic and social stability of the county must not be negatively impacted by land use decisions. The other comment mentioned the potential for mineral development, existing grazing uses and the existence of outside sights and sounds.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Hack Lake
CO 070 425

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 10

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 11
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:
9 Personal Letters
____ Postcards
1 Public Comments Forms
____ Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

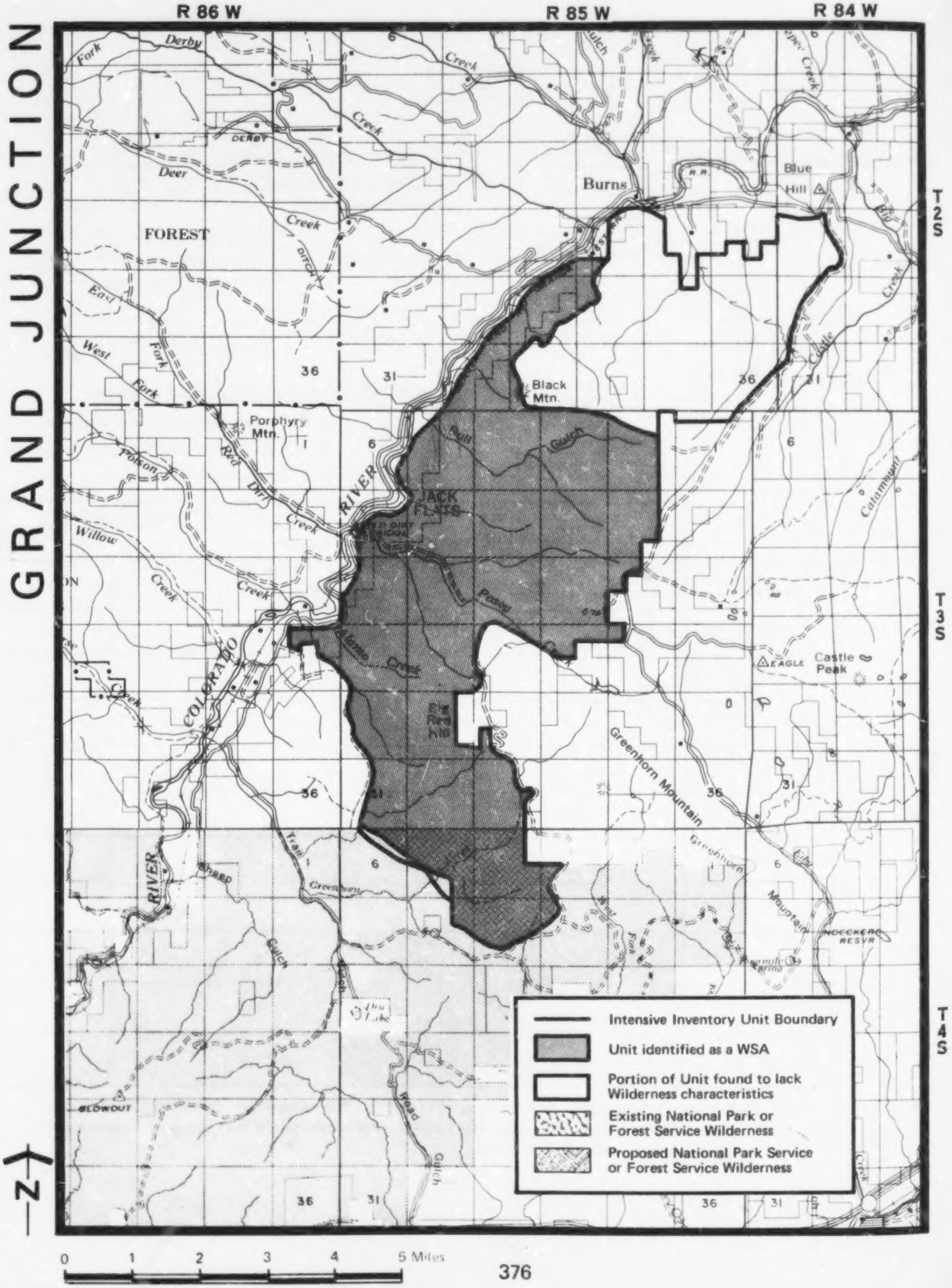
GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:
8 Colorado
____ Utah
2 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:
6 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
4 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
0 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	2			1		1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		2		2		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	4	2		5		1
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	4		2
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	4		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨			

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-070-430 Bull Gulch


GRAND JUNCTION
R 86 W
R 85 W
R 84 W
T 2 S
T 3 S
T 4 S
Burns
Blue Hill
FOREST
Derby
Deer Creek
Black Mtn.
Porphyry Mtn.
Bull Gulch
JACK FLATS
COLORADO RIVER
Alamo Creek
Big Red Hill
Castle Peak
EAGLE
Greenhorn Mountain
Catamount Creek
Willow Creek
West Fork
East Fork
Red Dirt Creek
Poison
NOECKER RESVR
BLOWOUT
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
N
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

BULL GULCH

CO-070-430

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 21,000 acres intensively inventoried
15,000 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
15,000 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____ Yes X No

GENERAL LOCATION: North of Gypsum Colorado and I-70; borders along Colorado River south of Burns, Colorado (Eagle County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: A 21,000 acre unit was proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/80: The intensive inventory field check revealed several significant impacts on the unit's naturalness. A game exclusion fence along the southwest boundary and an intense network of ways in the northern portion of the unit were deleted from the inventory unit. The WSA proposal, with these deletions, recommended 15,000 acres for WSA designation.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: All lands within the unit are public lands administered by BLM. The lands to the west along the Colorado River are withdrawn or reserved for powersites. Railroad and telephone rights-of-way are located along the river in T. 3 S., R. 85 W. Several oil and gas leases exist throughout the area. Livestock grazing is permitted on seven allotments in the unit. Mineral activity includes silver and gold placers along the river and potential for uranium and moss rock.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The Bull Gulch unit is characterized by its steep, rugged topography with deeply incised gulches and canyons. Elevations range from 6400' along the Colorado River to 9700' along the eastern boundary of the unit. Pinyon-juniper, spruce-fir, aspen and sagebrush are the dominant types of vegetation. Mountain brush and some riparian areas are also found within the unit. The transition from the riparian areas along the Colorado River and gulch bottoms to sparsely vegetated gypsum hills and arid land to spruce-fir and aspen areas of the higher elevations provides an interesting and educational contrast in vegetation types.

Imprints of Man: Within the unit, only minor man-made impressions exist. Most of these modifications are located along the eastern and southeastern boundaries and include numerous dead end ways, fences, reservoirs, developed springs and an irrigation ditch. The dense aspen stands, pinyon-juniper and rolling topography provide effective screening and these impacts remain substantially unnoticeable in the unit. A way follows along Posey Creek but due to the high cliff walls and dense pinyon-juniper, it remains well-concealed. Along the western boundary, two ways enter the unit and dead end, leaving minor impacts as they both are revegetating and blend in with the surrounding landscape.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Three comments noted that the unit contains fencelines, ways and water developments. The Intensive Inventory documented these impacts and found that they exist near the units boundaries and are sufficiently screened so not to substantially impair the unit's naturalness. One agreed with the BLM's findings that the unit remains in a natural condition.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: The varied topography, with numerous gulches and ridgetops rising from 6400' to 9700' provides the Bull Gulch unit with outstanding opportunities for solitude. Bull Gulch, Posey Creek, Alamo Creek and associated drainages are all conducive to solitude. The pinyon-juniper in the western portion and aspen, spruce-fir in the eastern portion provide effective screening from other individuals and sounds.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Two comments agreed with the BLM's recommendation that the size, topography and vegetation of the unit provide for outstanding opportunities for solitude. One comment indicated that the narrow configuration of the unit did not provide opportunities for solitude. The field inventory has shown that sufficient vegetative and topographic screening exists in the narrow portions of the unit for opportunities for solitude to be available.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: With the diverse terrain, vegetation and wildlife, opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are present in the Bull Gulch unit. Unique geological formations, topographic variation, the wide range of wildlife and extreme ecological transition all contribute to the opportunities for sightseeing, photography, climbing, hiking, hunting, horseback riding, backpacking, camping, fishing, and snowshoeing. Opportunities for rafting, canoeing and kayaking are also available in the Colorado River which runs along the units northwest boundary. The quantity of recreational opportunities available as well as their associated quality provides this unit with outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Three comments agreed with the BLM's recommendation that opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are outstanding. The cited ecosystem transition, varied landforms and the Colorado River as factors contributing to those outstanding opportunities. No comments disagreed with BLM's recommendation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: Geological, educational and scenic interest is provided by the unusual pinnacle and geological formations along the Colorado River. The diversity of ecosystems through the unit offers ecological and educational significance. The presence of prairie falcon and bald eagle nests, the possible presence of Mountain lion, and existing deer and elk winter range add supplemental values. The Colorado River enhances the scenic qualities of the unit as well as providing additional access to the unit.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Four comments agreed with the BLM's recommendation that a diversity of wildlife, ecosystems, vegetation and the Colorado River are supplemental values existing within this unit.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

Area Description: Because of the large size and varied topography, the remaining impacts within the unit are minimal. All are capable of returning to a substantially unnoticeable condition by either natural processes or hand labor. The ways, reservoirs and irrigation ditches have already begun to revegetate. One comment indicated that the ways existing in the unit are revegetating by nature at this time.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The Bull Gulch unit is of sufficient size and is primarily natural land with only a few minor impacts of man, most capable of rehabilitation. Outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation do exist as well as several supplemental values. Therefore, the unit meets the criteria of a WSA.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions. Three comments addressed the existence of "outside sights and sounds" from the railway, highway and passage of airplanes. One comment requested that the economic and social stability of the county be considered in land use decisions.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Bull Gulch
CO 070 430

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 12

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 13
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

7 Personal Letters
____ Postcards
3 Public Comments Forms
2 Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

9 Colorado
1 Utah
2 Other

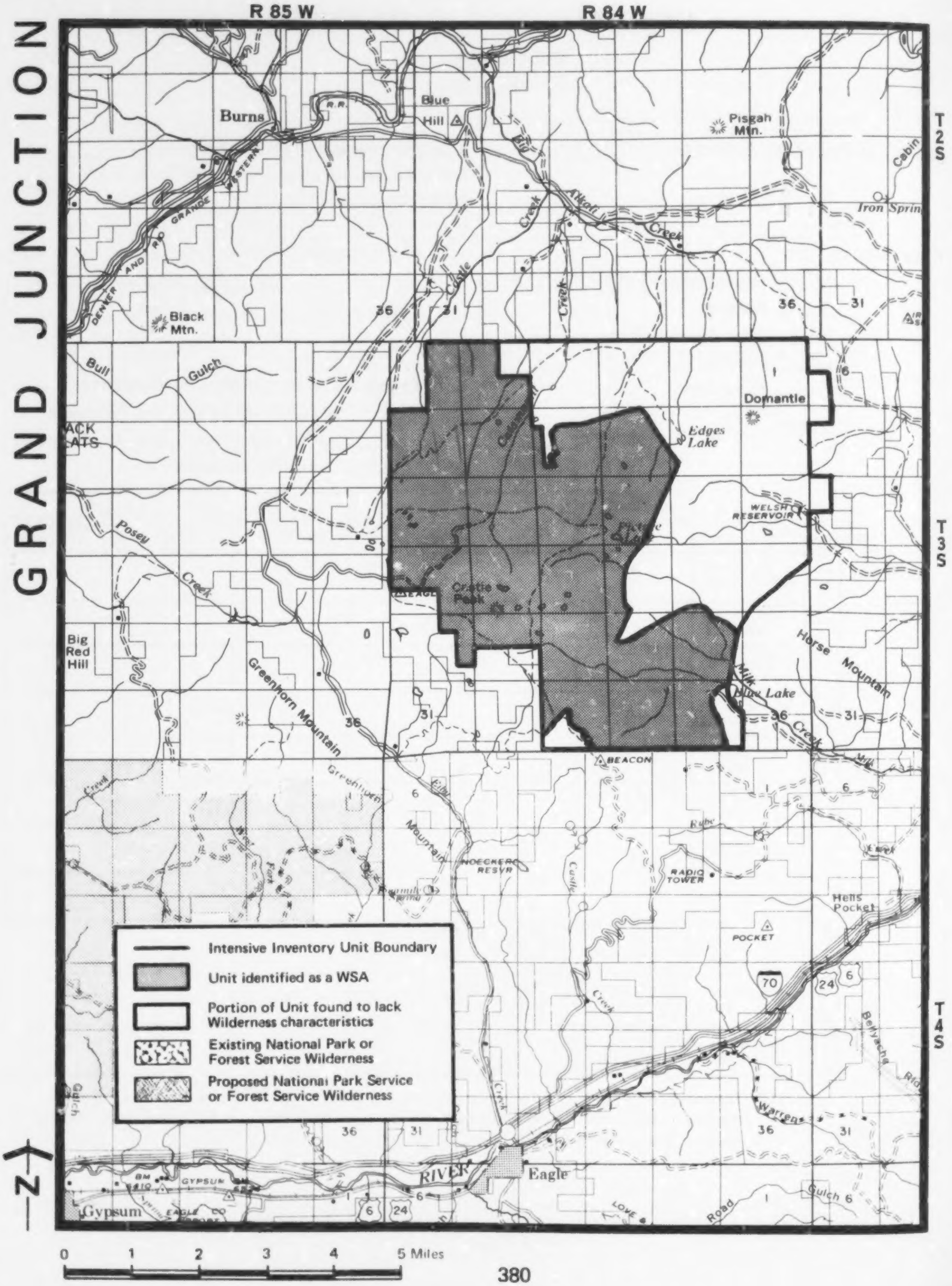
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

7 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
5 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
0 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	3			1	1	1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		2		2		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	4	3		6		1
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	4	1	2
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	5		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨			

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-070-433 Castle Peak


GRAND JUNCTION
R 85 W
R 84 W
T 2 S
T 3 S
T 4 S
N
Burns
Blue Hill
Pisgah Mtn.
Black Mtn.
Iron Sprin
Cabin
DENVER AND RIO GRANDE WESTERN R.R.
Alkali Creek
Castle Creek
Bull Gulch
ACK
ATS
Posey Creek
Big Red Hill
Greenhorn Mountain
Castle Peak
Domantle
Edges Lake
Welsh Reservoir
Horse Mountain
Milk Creek
Blue Lake
BEACON
NOECKERC RESVR
RADIO TOWER
POCKET
Hells Pocket
Warren
Eagle
RIVER
Gypsum
70
6
24
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Unit identified as a WSA
Portion of Unit found to lack Wilderness characteristics
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

CO-070-433
Area Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

CASTLE PEAK

CO-070-433

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 17,500 acres intensively inventoried
12,000 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
11,940 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: X Yes ___ No
Additions 0 acres Deletions 60 acres
(as a result of public comments)

GENERAL LOCATION: North of Eagle and northwest of Wolcott, Colorado (Eagle County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: A 19,333 acre unit was proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: A 17,500 acre unit was identified for intensive inventory after public comment and a field check.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: Numerous subunits were deleted from the unit because of the impact of man made objects within these subunits on the area's naturalness. A 12,000 acre unit was proposed for WSA designation.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: Approximately 6,900 acres, most of it located in the northeast corner, were eliminated due to the existence of numerous roads, ways, fences, irrigation ditches, and ponds that detracted from the naturalness. After boundary adjustments, approximately 12,000 acres of land are contained in the Castle Peak unit, making it of sufficient size to preserve and use in a primarily natural state. All lands within the unit are administered by the B.L.M. The unit is bounded by private lands to the west and south and a mixture of private and public lands to the north and east. Numerous oil and gas leases exist throughout the unit. Grazing allotments cover most of the unit. Potential for uranium exploration exists but no activity is presently occurring.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The Castle Peak unit contains a wide diversity of topography, vegetation, and wildlife. Topography varies from gently rolling slopes at the lower elevations to the rocky vertical cliffs of Castle Peak. Elevation ranges from 8,000' near Alkali Creek on the north to 11,275' at Castle Peak in the west central area of the unit. Aspen and spruce-fir dominate the unit with an assortment of wildflowers carpeting the meadows.

Imprints of Man: Within the intensive study area only a few minor modifications of man exist. A one-half mile fenceline creates the most serious impact to the naturalness. Any impressions of man that remain are substantially unnoticeable and the dense timber and vegetation provide an effective barrier. The fencelines do not necessarily exist as indicated on the map as some portions have been removed and some never existed. The pack trail, ways, irrigation ditch and reservoir constitute only a minimal impact to the naturalness because the process of natural rehabilitation has already begun. The pack trail has several downed trees and logs across the path; the tire tracks of the ways have begun to revegetate; and the irrigation ditch and reservoir have both been dry for some time and vegetation has grown over, making them substantially unnoticeable.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Three comments indicated that imprint of man are unnoticeable, one commenter said that the fencelines do not detract from the naturalness and one comment indicated that the imprints are screened by the variety of dense vegetation. One comment stated that fencelines, grazing and water developments detract from the unit's naturalness. Two comments referred to water ditches, roads and communication sites which are either outside the unit or form a portion of the unit's boundary. One comment questioned whether the deletion of the communication sites on the southwestern boundary had included all of the existing communication sites. A map and field check indicated 60 acres should be deleted to eliminate the communication site and access way which forms the site furthest east in T. 3 S., R. 84 W., Sec. 19.

Those impacts of man which remain within the unit's boundaries are effectively screened by vegetation and topography and thus considered to be substantially unnoticeable.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: The varied topography of the unit containing several peaks about 10,000' in elevation offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. The dense spruce-fir forest and aspen stands that cover most of the unit provide an excellent barrier to other sights and sounds within and outside of the unit. The size and blocked configuration further enhance opportunities for solitude.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Numerous comments supported the BLM's recommendation that the unit does possess outstanding opportunities for solitude. Two general comments stated that the unit possesses excellent solitude opportunities, four comments mentioned vegetative screening and three comments mentioned topographic screening as factors in the unit's outstanding opportunities for solitude. These impacts have been documented and are considered to be substantially unnoticeable and thus not adverse to the unit's ability to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation exist in the Castle Peak unit due to the wide variety in the topography, vegetation, and wildlife. The pack trails, ways, creeks, unusual rock formation of Castle Peak and diverse plant and animal life all contribute to opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, snowshoeing, photography, sightseeing, bird watching and hunting.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Numerous comments supported the BLM's recommendation that the unit possesses outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Three commenters thought that vegetative screening was a factor in making these opportunities outstanding. Two comments cited diversity of vegetation, one the outstanding vistas and one the abundant water as primitive and unconfined recreation factors. One comment mentioned that he has used the area for a variety of primitive and unconfined activities including hunting, photography, camping and hiking.

Two comments disagreed with the BLM's recommendation. One felt that the existence of fencelines made his experiences mentally and physically confining and the other felt that grazing and oil and gas exploration activities inhibited opportunities for outstanding primitive and unconfined recreational activities. These impacts have been documented and found to be substantially unnoticeable because of topographic and vegetative screening.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: The unusual basalt formation of Castle Peak and the diverse topography and vegetation provide outstanding scenic and ecologic values. The unit is located within a 30 minute drive from Wolcott, Colorado and I-70.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Comments agreed with the BLM's recommendations that supplemental values exist within the unit. The suggested supplemental values include: wildlife habitat, unusual geologic formations, ecosystem variety, scenic value and the possible existence of vertebrate fossils.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

The major impact occurring in the intensive study unit is a fenceline which is capable of returning to an unnoticeable condition with removal by hand labor. The remaining impacts are minimal and will either rehabilitate naturally or are substantially unnoticeable due to effective vegetative screening. Three comments stated that existing ways have already begun to revegetate naturally and three comments indicated that impacts can be mitigated by hand labor.

RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation are present as well as some supplemental values. Rehabilitation potential of the few impacts of man is feasible. Therefore, the Castle Peak unit, CO-070-433, does meet the criteria for a Wilderness Study Area. Those comments which opposed the W.S.A. recommendation for Castle Peak felt that the existing fencelines and water development impacted the naturalness, opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The BLM intensive inventory field work documented the existence of these impacts and found that sufficient vegetative and topographic screening is available to mitigate the impacts of these man-made intrusions. A communication site in T. 3 S., R. 84 W., Section 19 was found to be inside the unit due to an error in the boundary line in the southwest corner of the unit. The deletion of this communication site and access road will decrease the unit's size by 60 acres. Several comments requested that the subunits in the northeast corner of the unit be included in the W.S.A. designation. The two comments which contained supporting rationale indicated that the impacts in this portion of the unit were not greater than those included in the area proposed as a W.S.A. The BLM field inventory found the northeast corner of the unit to vary considerably from the portion of the unit proposed as a W.S.A., vegetative and topographic screening was determined to be insufficient to screen the impacts of these man-made improvements. With the exceptions of the deletion of 60 acres to eliminate the communication site in T. 3 S., R. 84 W., Section 19, the unit, as proposed, is designated as a W.S.A.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after November 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions. One comment referred to "outside sights and sounds" of frequent aircraft passing over the unit. One comment requested that land use decisions not be made which will adversely affect the social or economic stability of the county. Numerous comments were also received which indicate the unit's WSA designation could affect the grazing, mineral exploration and timber resources of Castle Peak.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Castle Peak
CO 070 433

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 17

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 17
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:
11 Personal Letters
____ Postcards
6 Public Comments Forms
____ Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:
15 Colorado
1 Utah
1 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:
10 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
6 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # No Recommendation Given

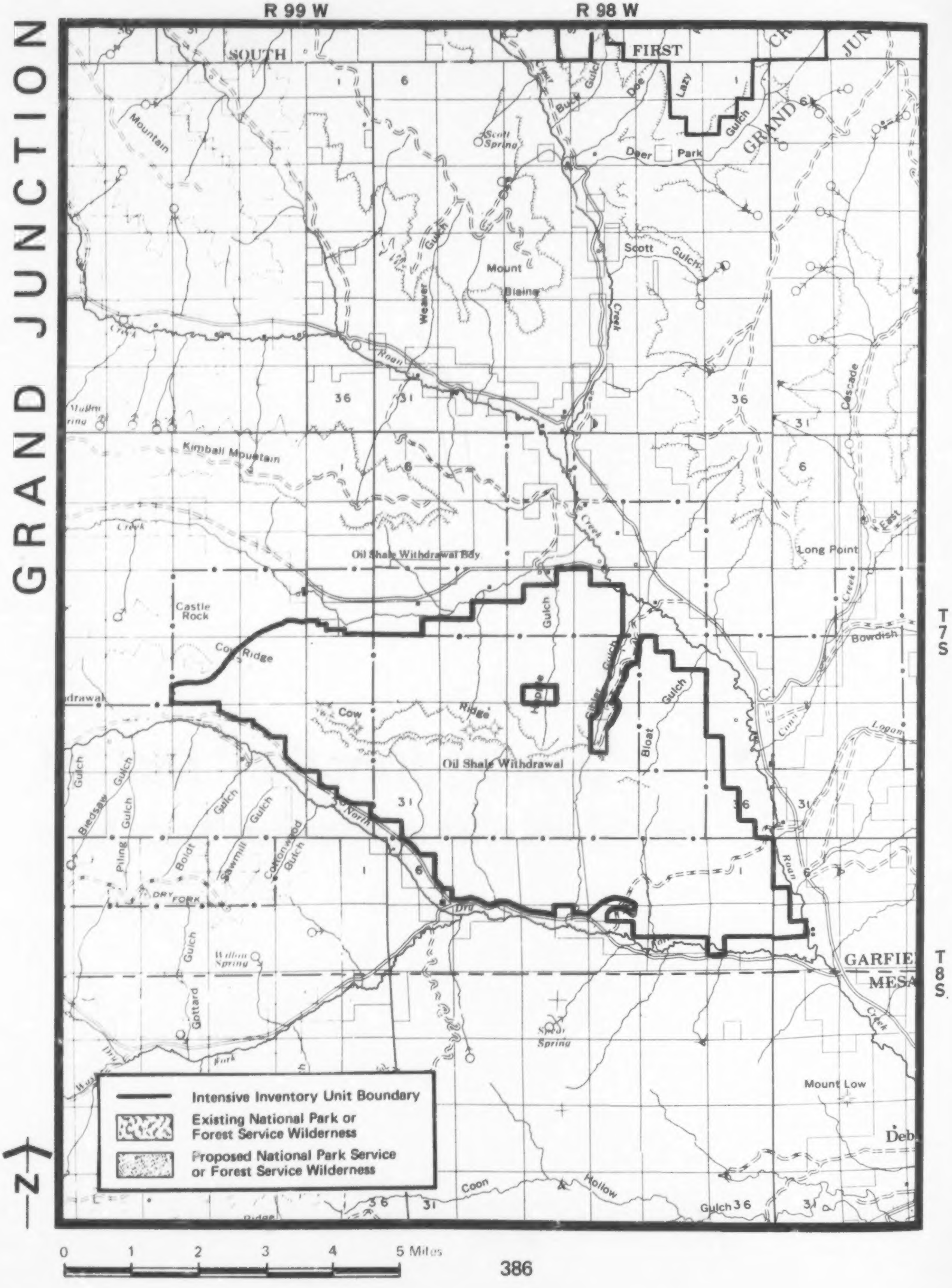
		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	3		1	2	1	1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		4		4		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	7	2		9		
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	8	1	1
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	6		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	1		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

Grand Junction District

Units not identified as Wilderness Study Areas

CO-070-015 Cow Ridge


GRAND JUNCTION
R 99 W
R 98 W
T 7 S
T 8 S
SOUTH
FIRST
GRAND
Mountain
Scott Spring
Buck Gulch
Doe
Lazy
Gulch
Deer Park
Scott Gulch
Mount Blaine
Weaver Gulch
Creek
Roan
Kimball Mountain
Cascade
Long Point
Oil Shale Withdrawal Bdy
Castle Rock
Cow Ridge
Cow
Ridge
Gulch
Critter Gulch
Bloat Gulch
Oil Shale Withdrawal
Bowdish
Logan
Biedsaw Gulch
Piling Gulch
Boldt Gulch
Sawmill Gulch
Cottonwood Gulch
North
Dry Fork
Willow Spring
Gottard Gulch
Speer Spring
GARFIE
MESA
Mount Low
Coon Hollow
Gulch
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
N
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

CO-070-015
Area Not Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

COW RIDGE

CO-070-015

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area and will be released from further wilderness study.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 17,500 acres intensively inventoried
0 acres proposed as WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
0 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: X Yes ____ No

Additions ____ acres Deletions 1,790 acres
(as a result of public comments)

GENERAL LOCATION: Approximately 20 miles north of Grand Junction (Garfield County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: An 18,900 acre unit was proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: As a result of public comments and a field check, a 17,500 acre unit was intensively inventoried.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: During the intensive inventory 380 acres were omitted to exclude several major imprints of man. The remaining 17,120 acres were not recommended as a WSA because of their lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: All land within the unit is public land administered by BLM with one exception. Eighty acres of private land inholdings are located in the unit, but are not being inventoried for wilderness characteristics. These private lands are located in section 21, T. 7 S., R. 98 W., 6 P.M. Land ownership outside the unit is a mixture of public and private lands. Oil shale withdrawals are concentrated in the central portion of the unit and several mining claims are located in the northern portion. The entire unit is covered by a grazing permit.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The Cow Ridge unit varies in topographic features from gently sloping hills on the periphery of the unit to near vertical cliffs that nearly encircle an 8,200 foot grassy ridgetop which runs the entire length of the unit. The forces of nature are readily apparent in the grey shale-colored cliffs and bluffs which exhibit the effect of the erosional forces that shaped Cow Ridge. Vegetative patterns vary from sagebrush to pinyon-juniper on the lower elevations in the periphery of the unit to Douglas fir and mountain mahogany on the north facing slopes of the ridge.

Imprints of Man: Only minor imprints of man remain. These include imprints of old ways, three reservoirs, some drainage and modification work, and fencelines. These imprints are well screened by dense vegetation and a rolling topography and are substantially unnoticeable.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Three comments were received addressing naturalness. One said the unit does not have outstanding natural features. Two comments addressed imprints in the unit. One said there were gas wells in the unit and one said there was oil and gas activity. Also the latter comment stated there are stockponds and fences in CO-070-015. Three comments were also received addressing roads. Two were general comments. One specific comment said the way across the SE corner has been constructed and maintained.

While various imprints do occur in the unit, none are considered to be significant. The intensive inventory determined there are no gas wells within the boundaries of the unit and no specific information was submitted contrary to this. A field check and re-evaluation of the referenced way did determine this to be a road. Therefore this road cuts 1,790 acres off the unit.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Primarily due to its narrow configuration, the relatively flat topography of the ridgetops, and the steep sloping rugged topography on the sides of the ridge, the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities fo solitude. These factors make seclusion difficult from the sights and sounds of others within the unit, and restricts the area available for experiencing solitude. Solitude is limited on the ridgetop because of its limited area, its flatness and its lack of screening vegetation. A major part of the unit is the very steep cliffs on the north, east and south sides of the ridge. Because of these slopes' openness and lack of vegetation, opportunities for solitude are limited. Opportunities for solitude do exist in localized pockets in the periphery of the unit, primarily in the gulches where vegetation and topography screen viewers from each other. Because these areas occur in only isolated locations, these opportunities are not considered to be outstanding.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Nine comments addressed solitude. Three stated there were outstanding opportunities for solitude while six supported BLM's 2/1/80 recommendation that outstanding levels of solitude do not exist in the unit. Of the comments endorsing outstanding levels of solitude in the unit, one was general and two said the topography and vegetation provided for outstanding opportunities for solitude. Those comments stating the unit lacked outstanding solitude cited such factors as not outstanding on a "regional comparison," outside sights and sounds (BLM cannot consider at this time), lack of effective topographic and vegetative screening and lack of isolation due to cattle grazing on the ridgetop.

BLM's recommendation on 2/1/80 was that the unit lacked outstanding solitude based primarily on the unit's configuration and topographic and vegetative screening characteristics. Based on these factors and a review of public comment, BLM reaffirms the unit lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Opportunities for experiencing primitive and unconfined recreation are present in the unit, but these are not considered to be outstanding. The steep walled slopes of the ridge comprise a large part of the unit and confine movement. The narrow configuration of the remaining lands surrounding the ridge (from the base of the slopes to the unit boundary) further confines movement, since private land lies to the north, south, and east.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eight comments were received on this criterion. Half said the unit possessed outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation while the other half said the opposite. Of those endorsing the unit possessing outstanding opportunities, one comment was general and three cited outstanding hiking, camping and/or hunting opportunities in Cow Ridge. Two of the comments stating the unit lacked outstanding opportunities were general statements only and two said the recreation opportunities present were not outstanding when compared to opportunities available in the region.

BLM maintains that hiking in the unit is not outstanding because of the very steep topography that confines movement in the unit. Camping and hunting opportunities are also not considered outstanding for similar reasons.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: Many scenic views of lands outside the unit are evident from several viewpoints. To the north are the rugged shale and sandstone cliffs of Kimball Mountain and to the southeast are the Roan Cliffs and Grand Mesa which provide interesting scenic views. Located in Gibbler Gulch are the remains of an historic lumber milling operation that could offer educational perspective to the unit.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Ten comments addressed supplemental values. Six comments said the unit possessed such values as fossil vertebrates, canyon scenery, wildlife, landscape variety and/or ponderosa pine ecosystem. Four said the unit did not possess supplemental values. Three of these were general statements and one said supplemental values were lacking based on a "regional comparison".

BLM concurrs that the unit does have supplemental values. No specific information was provided on vertebrates fossil concentrations in Cow Ridge.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

All imprints of man located in the area have a minor impact on naturalness; therefore, no special rehabilitation measures are needed. No comments addressed reclamation. The road across the southeastern corner of the unit has low reclamation potential because of the amount of disturbance associated with it.

RATIONALE FOR NOT IDENTIFYING AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

Although Cow Ridge is primarily natural in character with 15,330 acres in the unit, it does not possess outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Opportunities for solitude are not considered to be outstanding as a result of the relatively narrow configuration and lack of effective topographic screening. Opportunities for primitive recreation are limited by the extreme topography of the area, which confines the freedom of movement within the area. The unit's narrow configuration also reduces recreation opportunities.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. Since this area has not been identified as a WSA, comments addressing these concerns will be utilized by the BLM in future land use planning. Eight comments were received that said there is a conflict between WSA designation and oil shale and natural gas development. One person expressed concern that there would be conflicts with carrying out cattle operations. Another comment said there would be a conflict with being able to gather firewood. Several people said road traffic adjacent to the unit, airplane traffic, and/or ranching operations in the surrounding valleys should prevent the area from qualifying as a WSA.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Cow Ridge
CO 070 015

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 29

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 29
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:
27 Personal Letters
___ Postcards
1 Public Comments Forms
1 Meetings
___ Phone Calls
___ Other

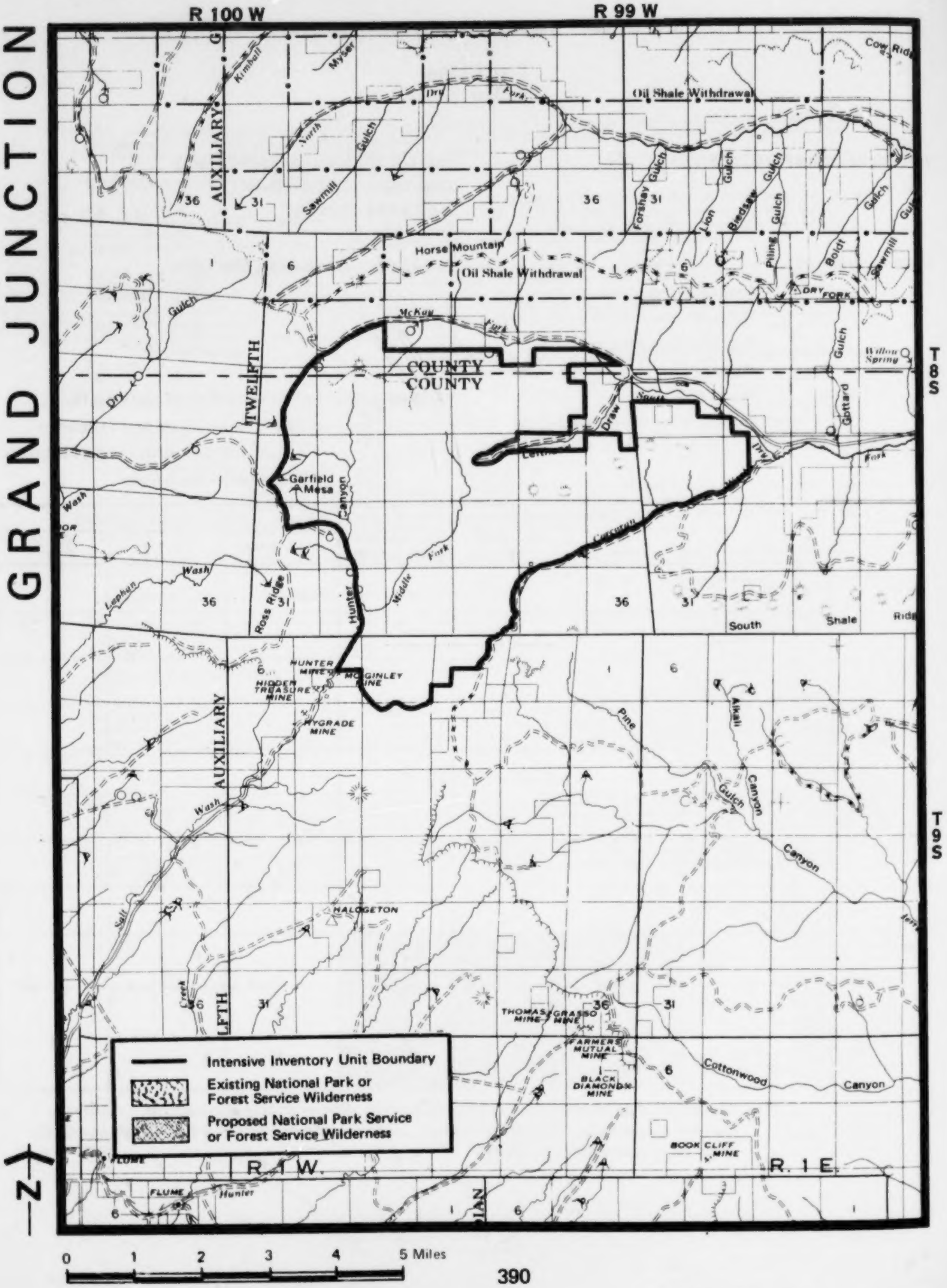
GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:
28 Colorado
___ Utah
1 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:
12 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
14 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
3 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	1			1		
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		6		5		1
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.			1	1		
	INDIVIDUAL	11	8	2	21		
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	12		
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	13		1
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	3		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-070-015A Hunter Canyon


GRAND JUNCTION
R 100 W
R 99 W
T 8 S
T 9 S
R. 1 W.
R. 1 E.
Oil Shale Withdrawal
Horse Mountain
Oil Shale Withdrawal
AUXILIARY
TWELFTH
COUNTY
COUNTY
Garfield Mesa
Hunter Canyon
Ross Ridge
Middle Fork
Carpenter
Leitner
Draw
South
Dry Fork
McKay Fork
Kimball
Myser
North Gulch
Sawmill
Forshay Gulch
Lion Gulch
Bledsoe Gulch
Piling Gulch
Boldt Gulch
Sawmill
Gobbard Gulch
Willow Spring
Cow Ridge
Dry Gulch
Lephan Wash
Wash
HUNTER MINE
MC GINLEY MINE
HIDDEN TREASURE MINE
HYGRADE MINE
HALOGETON
Salt Creek
Pine
Alkali Gulch
Canyon
Canyon
South Shale Ridge
THOMAS MINE
GRASSO MINE
FARMERS MUTUAL MINE
BLACK DIAMOND MINE
BOOK CLIFF MINE
Cottonwood Canyon
FLUME
Hunter
36
31
1
6
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
N
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

best copy available

CO-070-015A
Area Not Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

HUNTER CANYON

CO-070-015A

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area and will be released from further wilderness study.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 13,005 acres intensively inventoried
0 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
0 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____Yes __X__No

GENERAL LOCATION: Twenty miles northwest of Grand Junction (Mesa County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: This part of unit CO-070-015 was not proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: As a result of public comments and a field check, a 13,005 acre unit was intensively inventoried.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: One slight boundary adjustment was made (5 acres) to omit two active, adjacent reservoirs near the boundary. The 13,000 acre unit was not recommended as a WSA because it was determined to lack outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: All land within the unit is public land administered by BLM. Grazing leases cover most of the unit while oil and gas leases cover the entire unit. No mining claims or easements are known to exist. After all boundary adjustments were made the unit contains 13,000 acres of public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. Land ownership outside the unit boundaries is private on the north and a mixture of private and public lands on the east and south. All lands adjacent to the western boundary are public lands.

NATURALNESS:

The Hunter Canyon unit varies in topographic features from rugged steep canyons in the west to an 8,000 foot mountainous type escarpment in the east. The forces of nature are very apparent in the geologic formation of the unit which was created by some sedimentary uplifting, intermittent streams, and differential weathering. Vegetative patterns represent a Douglas fir and mountain brush type. The mountainous areas are primarily covered with mountain mahogany and gambel's oak, with isolated stands of Douglas fir and aspen found in the draws and ravines.

Imprints of Man: The unit appears to have only minor imprints of man remaining. Some of these imprints are three ways and a reservoir that exist in the unit's western portion. In the eastern portion the minor imprints of man include four ways, two fencelines, and one structure. All of these have a minimal impact on the area's naturalness.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Ten comments were received stating that the unit is natural while two comments said the unit did not have naturalness. Many of the comments were general. One said the unit has gas wells while others said the area was unaffected by man. Others said there are not major imprints. Two comments said there are roads in the unit. BLM has not identified gas wells or roads in the unit. The unit is primarily natural in character.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: This unit does not possess outstanding opportunities for solitude. Steep terrain in a relatively small area restricts the freedom of motion and increases the chances to encounter others who might be present. Throughout much of the western portion, the chances of seeing people is further increased by the heavy cover of mountain brush that funnels visitors into those few open areas conducive to travel. Collectively there are limited opportunities for people to be separated from one another in the canyons, due mainly to their short and straight formation plus a lack of side canyon development.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Ten comments stated the unit has outstanding opportunities for solitude. Reasons given included: the area's ruggedness, low levels of visitation, vegetative and topographic screening and the unit's canyon system. Four comments said the area did not have outstanding opportunities for solitude. The reasons given included: regional comparisons, short and straight canyons with little side canyon development, and lack of topographic and vegetative screening. Also one comment said that outside sights and sounds influenced opportunities.

BLM's recommendation on 2/1/80 was that the unit lacked outstanding opportunities for solitude. Based on public comment, the unit was carefully field checked and based on the rationale already given, the unit is not considered to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. BLM considers the unit's rugged topography in combination with it's vegetation screening capabilities, size and configuration to limit opportunities for solitude. The dense mountain brush in this unit tends to funnel and concentrate people into the open areas. These areas are more visible on the steep slopes of the V-shaped valleys. Low levels of visitations are not considered because the wilderness inventory evaluates the inherent capabilities of the land to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude rather than present or future visitation levels. Visitation levels are an important issue that will be evaluated during the inventory.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: The Hunter Canyon unit does not contain outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The irregular shape of the area, the steep slopes and short canyons tend to restrict the freedom of movement within the unit. This topographic situation, in addition to the thick vegetative growth creates a setting where activities are extremely limited to only a few places suited for hiking or horseback riding.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eleven comments were received stating the area had outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Activities cited as being outstanding included hiking, backpacking, rock climbing, photography, bird watching, and scenic viewing. The reasons given for these outstanding opportunities included the area's pristineness, topographic and vegetative variety, wildlife, interesting geologic features and scenery. Four comments said the area did not have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Reasons given included: regional comparison, the unit's configuration, steep slopes which restrict movement and outside sights and sounds.

BLM's recommendation on 2/1/80 was that the area did not have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. A field investigation of this unit has determined that the area does have some very interesting geologic formations similar to those known as the Goblins and some scenic qualities. However, these alone are not considered to be significant enough to provide outstanding primitive recreation. Additionally, the topography and vegetation of the area along with this configuration does confine movement. While the opportunities for recreation mentioned in the comments are present, the unit still is not considered to possess outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: Based upon additional field investigation, the unit is considered to possess both geologic and scenic values.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Nine comments were received stating that the area has supplemental values. These included interesting geologic formations, high scenic value, ecological values, waterfalls, wildlife, canyons and a diversity of plant and animal life. Three comments said that such values did not exist in the unit. Reasons given for lack of supplemental values included were: not outstanding on a regional comparison, nothing unusual nor outstanding in the unit, and no outstanding vistas or physiographic varieties. Based upon field investigations as a result of these comments, BLM believes the areas does have scenic values and interesting geologic formations similar to those known as the Goblins.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

The Hunter Canyon Area contains no significant imprints of man that would necessitate rehabilitation. Only two comments were received on reclamation. Both stated the areas has reclamation potential because the imprints were minimal.

RATIONALE FOR NOT IDENTIFYING THIS UNIT AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

Although the unit is of sufficient size and possesses naturalness, it was not recommended as a WSA because of its lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Configuration, steep slopes and dense brush greatly inhibited these opportunities. The unit's scenery and geologic formations are considered significant but they alone do not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. Therefore, the unit is still not recommended as a WSA.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. Since this area has not been identified as a WSA, comments addressing these concerns will be utilized by the BLM in future land use planning. Seven comments were received stating there were mineral conflicts within the unit. Three comments identified vehicle access as a problem, while two stated that outside sights and sounds should disqualify the unit.

Several comments have suggested that a primary value of this unit would be to protect the wildland values that are recognized to be present. Wilderness protection is but one of many methods available to BLM to protect and manage environmental values. Wilderness designation will not be used as a substitute for these other management methods. WSA's must be identified only on the basis of the roadless and wilderness characteristics criteria in Section 603 of FLPMA. Through its land use planning process, BLM develops management plans that are responsive to special environmental areas and concerns.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Hunter Canyon
CO 070 015A

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 35

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 41
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

31 Personal Letters
___ Postcards
4 Public Comments Forms
___ Meetings
___ Phone Calls
___ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

30 Colorado
1 Utah
4 Other

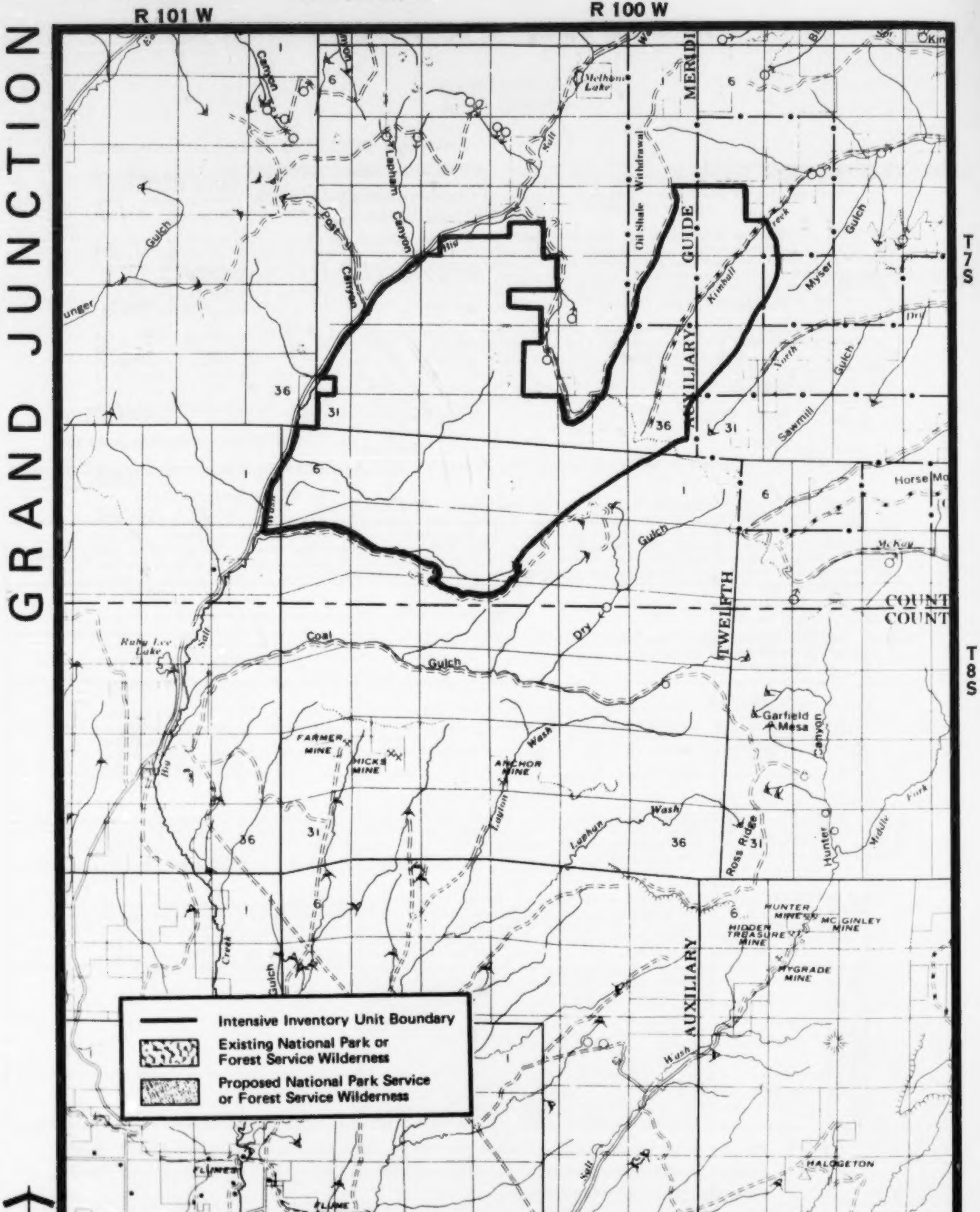
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

22 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
12 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	5			3	1	1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		6		6		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.	1			1		
	FEDERAL GOVT.			1	1		
	INDIVIDUAL	16	6		19		3
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	18	1	3
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	11		1
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	1		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-070-015B Garvey Canyon


R 101 W
R 100 W
GRAND JUNCTION
T 7 S
T 8 S
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
Melhorn Lake
MERIDIAN
GUIDE
AUXILIARY
TWELFTH
Oil Shale Withdrawal
Lapham Canyon
Post Canyon
Kimball Creek
Myser Gulch
Sawmill Gulch
North Dry Fork
Horse Mountain
McKay
Coal Gulch
Dry Gulch
Ruby Lee Lake
Salt Wash
Big Salt Wash
Garfield Mesa
Hunter Canyon
Middle Fork
Ross Ridge
Lapham Wash
Layton Wash
Anchor Wash
FARMER MINE
HICKS MINE
ANCHOR MINE
HUNTER MINES
MC GINLEY MINE
HIDDEN TREASURE MINE
HYGRADE MINE
HALOGETON
FLUME
SIMON
Salt Creek
COUNTY
N
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

GARVEY CANYON

CO-070-015B

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area and will be released from further wilderness study.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 12,810 acres intensively inventoried
0 acres proposed as WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
0 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____ Yes X No

GENERAL LOCATION: Twenty miles north of Grand Junction (Garfield County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: This unit was originally part of unit CO-070-015 which was not proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: As a result of public comments and a field check, a 12,810 acre unit was intensively inventoried.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: One boundary adjustment was made during the intensive inventory to omit a short portion of a maintained road. This deletion of 10 acres resulted in a 12,800 acre unit which was roadless and substantially free of imprints of man. The unit was not recommended as a WSA because it was determined to lack outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: All lands within the unit are public lands administered by the BLM. The majority of the unit is covered by existing grazing leases, while the entire unit is covered by oil and gas leases. Preference right lease applications for coal exist in the western portion of the unit. Contiguous lands include public lands on all boundaries, with some private land to the west and north.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The Green River Formation is evident in most of the unit with the chalk-colored cliffs being a prime example of the forces of nature acting upon this formation. Elevations within the unit vary from 8,200 feet to 6,200 feet. The western part of the unit is characterized by several, short canyon systems that branch east and north from the western boundary. The canyon slopes are steep and are covered with dense mountain brush and some pinyon and juniper trees. The eastern portion is composed of the Kimball Creek Valley and part of the flat ridgeline on both sides of the valley. Some dense stands of Douglas fir characterize the steep slopes of the valley.

Imprints of Man: Only a few minor imprints of man are contained within the unit. They include four ways, two fencelines, and a reservoir. Two of the ways have had no construction and the other two have had only small sections that are benchcut. These benchcut areas are relatively small in relationship to the total length of the ways. The reservoir is silted in and considered inactive. All of these imprints are considered to have a low impact on naturalness.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Seven comments said the unit was natural and six said the unit was unnatural. Those stating the unit is natural primarily made general comments. Three of those submitting comments that Garvey Canyon is unnatural did so with a general comment only. One said the unit has gas wells; one referenced mining claims and fences and one said the unit is "too developed" but did not elaborate. Specific well locations were not cited. Also, there were four comments that said there were roads in the unit.

BLM maintains the unit is still primarily natural. Mining claims and fences are generally not considered major imprints. There are no known wells or roads in the unit.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Opportunities for solitude exist within some portions of the Garvey Canyon area; however, these opportunities are not considered to be outstanding. Steeply sloping hillsides along the edges of Big Salt Wash (west boundary) and Garvey Canyon (southwest boundary) lack opportunities for solitude due to the open nature of these hillsides, which offer limited topographic and ineffective vegetative screening in these areas. Dense mountain brush on the steep slopes divert people into the more open areas which are generally more open to view within each valley. As a result, people are unable to completely isolate themselves from each other on these slopes. The narrow projection of the unit which includes the upper portion of Kimball Creek (east and northeast boundary) consists of a single main drainage which tends to act as a funnel for people using this portion of the unit. The presence of numerous smaller short side drainages does offer some opportunities for solitude, although these are not outstanding in character because the valley still is very open in character. In addition, the irregular configuration of the whole unit also limits the opportunities for solitude since only a small, central portion of the area has the capability to isolate people from one another.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Sixteen people commented on opportunities for outstanding solitude in the unit. Seven said these opportunities existed; nine said they did not. Of the seven claiming the area provides outstanding solitude two were not specific, four said there was sufficient topographic and vegetative screening, and one said the low visitation in the unit insured outstanding solitude. Six of the nine comments syaing the unit lacks opportunities for solitude mentioned the impact of outside sights and sounds. Other comments addressed lack of solitude due to configuration, lack of vegetative and topographic screening, and lack of solitude based on a regional comparison.

Even though BLM cannot consider sights and sounds until the study phase of the wilderness review, the unit is still considered lacking in outstanding opportunities for solitude. This conclusion is based on the irregular shape of the unit and steeply sloping, generally open hillsides that provide limited topographic screening. Comments submitted counter to this were not specific enough to offer the BLM information necessary to change this conclusion. The level of present use is not a factor considered during the intensive inventory because it is the purpose of the inventory to determine the inherent ability of the unit to provide solitude. The mountain brush in the unit is not considered to provide effective vegetative screening in that people must move around it rather than through where it would help to screen them. By moving around this brush, the recreationists became concentrated in the more open travel areas. These limited areas also have higher visibility in this V-shaped valley unit.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: The Garvey Canyon area does not contain outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The irregular shape of the area, steep slopes and thick mountain brush tend to restrict the freedom of movement within the area. The thick mountain brush tends to confine movement to the limited number of open areas.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Seventeen people commented on opportunities for primitive, unconfined recreation. Ten said such opportunities did exist; seven said they did not. Several people mentioned the steep canyons provide for hiking. Two comments claimed the unit has outstanding primitive recreation but provided no specific rationale. One said hiking was outstanding due to topographic and vegetative variety. Those stating the unit did not have outstanding primitive recreation cited such factors as lack of outstanding features, confined movement due to steep canyons and configuration, outside sights and sounds, and lack of water.

Again, outside sights and sounds can not be considered until the study phase. The lack of water cannot be a factor in preventing an area from qualifying as a WSA. Water can always be carried into the unit. After consideration of public comments and additional field checking, BLM still considers the unit lacks outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The unit's configuration, steep terrain and dense mountain brush restricts unconfined movement such as hiking. The unit does offer some degree of landscape variety, but primitive recreation activities are still considered confining.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: No supplemental values are known to occur within the boundaries of the Garvey Canyon area.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Seven comments said the unit possesses supplemental values. These include: interesting geology, canyons, ecology, scenery, wildlife and diversity of plant and animal life. Four comments said the area lacked supplemental values based on a "regional comparison," lack of physiographic variety and lack of outstanding vistas.

Although the above values are present, none were considered significant enough to be supplemental values. Every area has geology, ecology, scenery, flora and fauna. Only significant values have been separated out as supplemental values.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

The Garvey Canyon area contains no significant imprints of man that would necessitate rehabilitation. Three comments addressed reclamation. One said reclamation was not necessary. Two comments said reclamation would be difficult due to low rainfall.

RATIONALE FOR NOT IDENTIFYING THIS UNIT AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The Garvey Canyon unit contains 12,800 acres and is affected primarily by the forces of nature with only minor imprints of man occurring in the area. Opportunities for solitude are not considered to be outstanding due to an irregular configuration in conjunction with steeply sloping topography that provides limited topographic and vegetative screening. Primitive recreation opportunities are not considered to be outstanding as a result of a restricted movement arising from steep slopes, dense areas of mountain brush in association with an irregularly shaped unit. This area does not meet the criteria necessary for a Wilderness Study Area.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. Since this area has not been identified as a WSA, comments addresssing these concerns will be utilized by the BLM in future land use planning. Twelve comments opposed WSA designation because of mineral conflicts including gas, oil shale, coal and mining claims. One comment stated the need for motorized access. Six people commented on outside sights and sounds that should be considered.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Garvey Canyon
CO 070 015B

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 37

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 37
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:
25 Personal Letters
Postcards
12 Public Comments Forms
Meetings
Phone Calls
Other

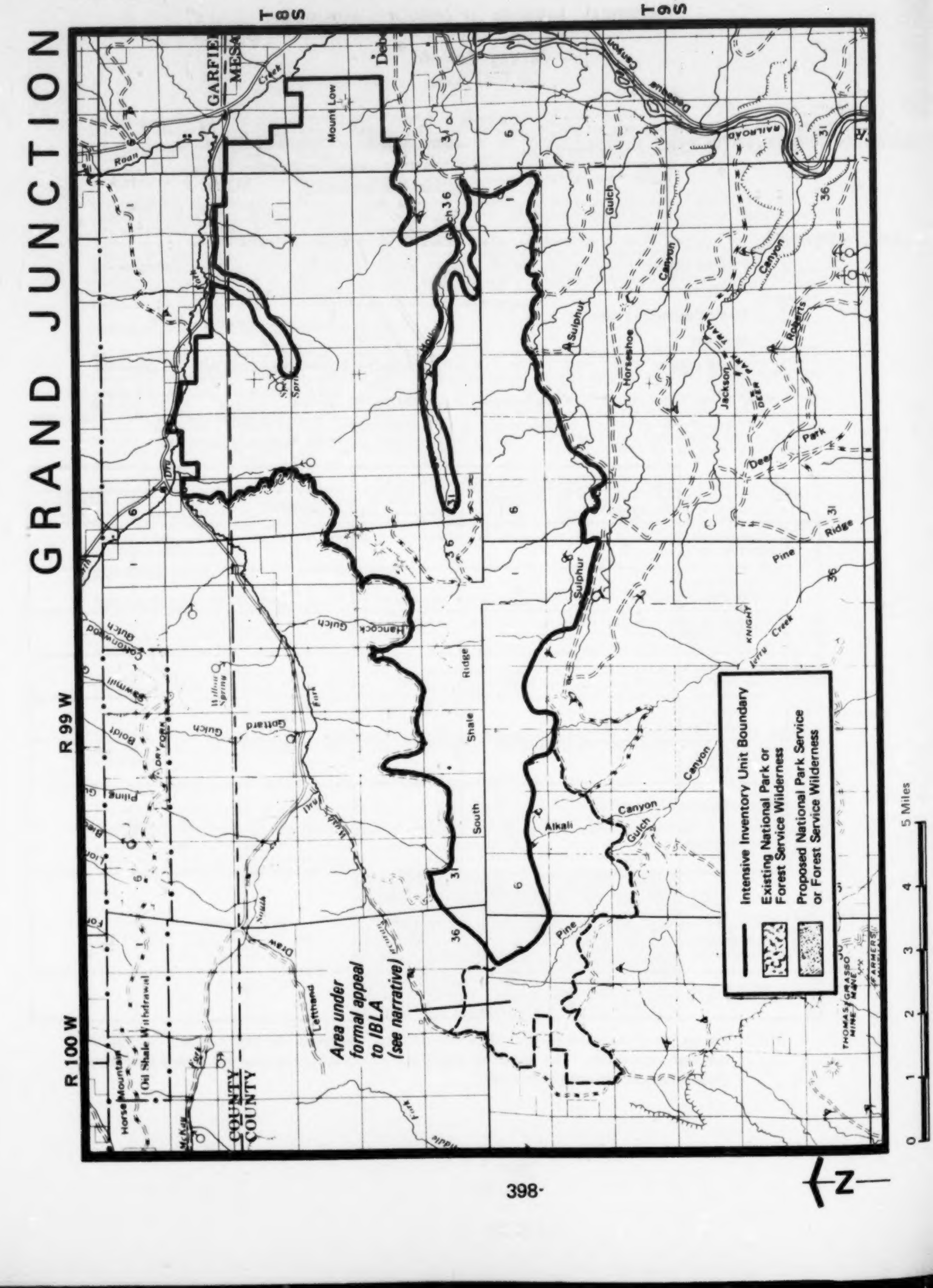
GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:
30 Colorado
1 Utah
6 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:
18 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
18 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	6			4	1	1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		5		4		1
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.				1		
	INDIVIDUAL	12	13		21		4
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	13	1	4
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	16		2
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	1		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-070-031 South Shale Ridge


GRAND JUNCTION
T 8 S
T 9 S
R 99 W
R 100 W
Area under formal appeal to IBLA (see narrative)
South Shale Ridge
Mount Low
Hancock Gulch
Gottard Gulch
Sulphur
Horseshoe Canyon
Jackson
Deer Park
Roberts
Pine Ridge
Alkali Canyon
Jerry Creek
Oil Shale Withdrawal
Horse Mountain
COUNTY
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles

CO-070-031
Area Not Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

SOUTH SHALE RIDGE

CO-070-031

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area and will be released from further wilderness study.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 28,860 acres intensively inventoried
0 acres proposed as WSA in 2/1/80 recommendations
0 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____ Yes X No

GENERAL LOCATION: Twenty miles northeast of Grand Junction (Mesa and Garfield Counties).

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: In the initial inventory situation evaluation, this 35,300 acre unit was not recommended for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: A field check was conducted. Based on the field check and the input received from the public comment period (5/1/79 - 7/30/79), 23,700 acres were identified for the intensive inventory.

Initial Inventory Protest 10/15/79: After a 45 day protest period, a formal protest was received. As a result, 5,040 acres in the Coon Hollow area were added to the unit resulting in a total of 28,740 acres identified for intensive inventory.

Initial Inventory Appeal 1/4/80: A Notice of Appeal was received by the State Director concerning the excluded western end of the unit (3,200 acres). This portion of the unit is currently under appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: Approximately 28,740 acres of public land are contained within the unit after boundary adjustments were made in the intensive inventory to add lands back in the SE corner of the unit and to exclude major imprints of man. The unit was not recommended as a WSA because of its lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: All lands within the unit are public lands administered by BLM. The entire unit is covered by oil and gas leases, and grazing occurs throughout by BLM grazing permits. The unit is surrounded by public land administered by the BLM, with a few scattered private lands also occurring along the border.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: This unit predominately consists of an east-west trending ridge line. The colorful hues of the Wasatch Formation characterize much of the area south of the ridgeline. Elevations within the unit range from 5,000 to 8,000 feet. Several drainage cuts and valley systems lead from the ridge to the boundaries. Coon Hollow is a small valley in the southeast quadrant of the unit. Pinyon-juniper growth is sparse in most areas and is concentrated on the more gently sloping hillsides and flat terrain.

Imprints of Man: Imprints within the unit consist of ways, reservoirs, and fencelines. There are six ways within the unit with four of them having had partial initial construction. Four of them are less than ¼ mile in length and are revegetating and are not regularly maintained. One active and three inactive reservoirs exist within the unit. The active reservoir is natural appearing and does not affect the naturalness of the unit. The three fencelines that exist are short in length and are considered to have a minimal impact on naturalness. Overall, the unit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Two comments discussed the unit's naturalness. One included a statement that the western end of South Shale Ridge should be included in the unit. This is the portion of the unit being appealed. Three comments addressed imprints within the unit including "numerous" ways, gas wells and stockponds. There are no known gas wells in the unit, and the impact of the ways and stockponds remaining are considered to be minor, as explained above. There are no known roads in the final intensive inventory unit. Two comments said there are roads in the unit and one said there are no roads. One of the former comments referred to a road in the area under appeal.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: The unit does not contain outstanding opportunities for solitude. The unit's ridgeline has steep slopes and limited vegetative screening that generally allows for open views. This reduces opportunities for solitude since people are able to view each other. The Coon Hollow area in the southeast quadrant has benches, side drainages and scattered pinyon-juniper cover that provide some opportunities for solitude; however, these opportunities are not considered to be outstanding primarily because of the general openness of the topography. The northwest quadrant offers more than 10 drainages that do provide solitude in a rolling, pinyon-juniper landscape. The short length of these drainages in conjunction with the steep slopes that occur at their ends, limits the opportunities for solitude. The unit's narrow configuration reduces opportunities for solitude since people are concentrated into a relatively small area.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Nine comments were received that said the unit has outstanding opportunities for solitude while five commented that the area does not. Seven people stated that the unit's topography and/or vegetation does provide for outstanding opportunities for solitude. Another comment said that the configuration does not limit solitude within the unit. Five stated the unit does not have outstanding opportunities for solitude and primarily referenced outside sights and sounds, configuration problems and a lack of effective topographic and vegetative screening. Another comment said the area lacked these opportunities based on a regional comparison.

BLM's recommendation on 2/1/80 was that the unit lacked outstanding opportunities for solitude based primarily on the unit's configuration, its steep slopes and lack of vegetative screening. After careful analysis of public comment, this negative recommendation will not be modified. No specific information describing how the topography and vegetation promotes opportunities for solitude was provided. The configuration in conjunction with the topography does significantly interfere with opportunities for solitude by concentrating people in certain parts of the unit such as the ridge line and peripheral edge.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are present in the South Shale Ridge unit but they are not considered outstanding. Landscape variety, interesting flora and geologic features, and scenic qualities combine to provide opportunities for hiking, scenic viewing, observing of nature, and photography. However primitive recreation opportunities are heavily affected by the narrow configuration of the unit and steep escarpments which confines movement within the area.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Ten comments were received stating the area has outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Three comments stated the area does not have such opportunities. Among the activities cited to be outstanding within the unit are hiking, photography, backpacking, and rockhounding. Some of the reasons given for these activities to be considered outstanding were unique geology, beautiful scenery and open views from the unit. There was one reference to significant recreation values but this was not elaborated upon. Those stating the area did not have outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation, stated the presence of gnats, limited topographic variety, narrow configuration, confined movement and lack of opportunity based on a regional comparison.

BLM's recommendation on 2/1/80 was that the unit lacked outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. Opportunities for hiking, scenic viewing, observing of nature and photography exist in the unit. However, these primitive recreation opportunities are also affected by the narrow configuration of the unit and steep escarpments which confines movement within the unit. No new comments have been received to alter this conclusion.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: Several supplemental values are found in the unit, including a highly scenic area on the southwestern ridgeline and a threatened species of cactus (Sclerocactus glaucus).

Evaluation of Public Comments: Ten comments were received stating the unit has supplemental values. Three comments said the unit does not have supplemental values. Supplemental values cited included scenery, vegetation, wildlife, including mule deer and interesting geology. Those stating the unit does not have supplemental values said there was nothing unusual in the unit. Others said there were no outstanding vistas or physiographic variety.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

The unit does not possess any major imprints of man, therefore, rehabilitation is not needed. Only one comment was received regarding reclamation. It stated that the reclamation potential was high but was not needed.

RATIONALE FOR NOT IDENTIFYING THIS UNIT AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The South Shale Ridge inventory unit is of sufficient size (28,740 acres) and retains its primeval character with only minor imprints of man occurring in the area. Outstanding opportunities for solitude do not exist in the unit as a result of the area's narrow configuration, moderate vegetation cover, and steeply sloping topography. Opportunities for primitive recreation are also considered to be less than outstanding because of the confining nature of the unit. Supplemental values include outstanding scenery in the unit and the presence of a threatened cactus species. The area does not meet the criteria necessary for a Wilderness Study Area.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. Since this area has not been identified as a WSA, comments addressing these concerns will be utilized by the BLM in future land use planning. Six comments were received stating mineral conflicts existed in the South Shale Ridge Unit. These include oil and gas as well as oil shale production. Range conflicts were also mentioned by four people submitting comments. Another conflict stated was wood gathering. Five people said that vehicle access to the unit would be a problem if it becomes a WSA. Two others mentioned a problem with the outside sights and sounds from the surrounding valleys on both sides of South Shale Ridge.

Several comments have suggested that a primary value of this unit would be to protect the wildland values that are recognized to be present. Wilderness protection is but one of many methods available to BLM to protect and manage environmental values. Wilderness designation will not be used as a substitute for these other management methods. WSA's must be identified only on the basis of the roadless and wilderness characteristics criteria in Section 603 of FLPMA. Through its land use planning process, BLM develops management plans that are responsive to special environmental areas and concerns.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

South Shale Ridge
CO 070 031

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 38

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 38
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:
35 Personal Letters
____ Postcards
3 Public Comments Forms
____ Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

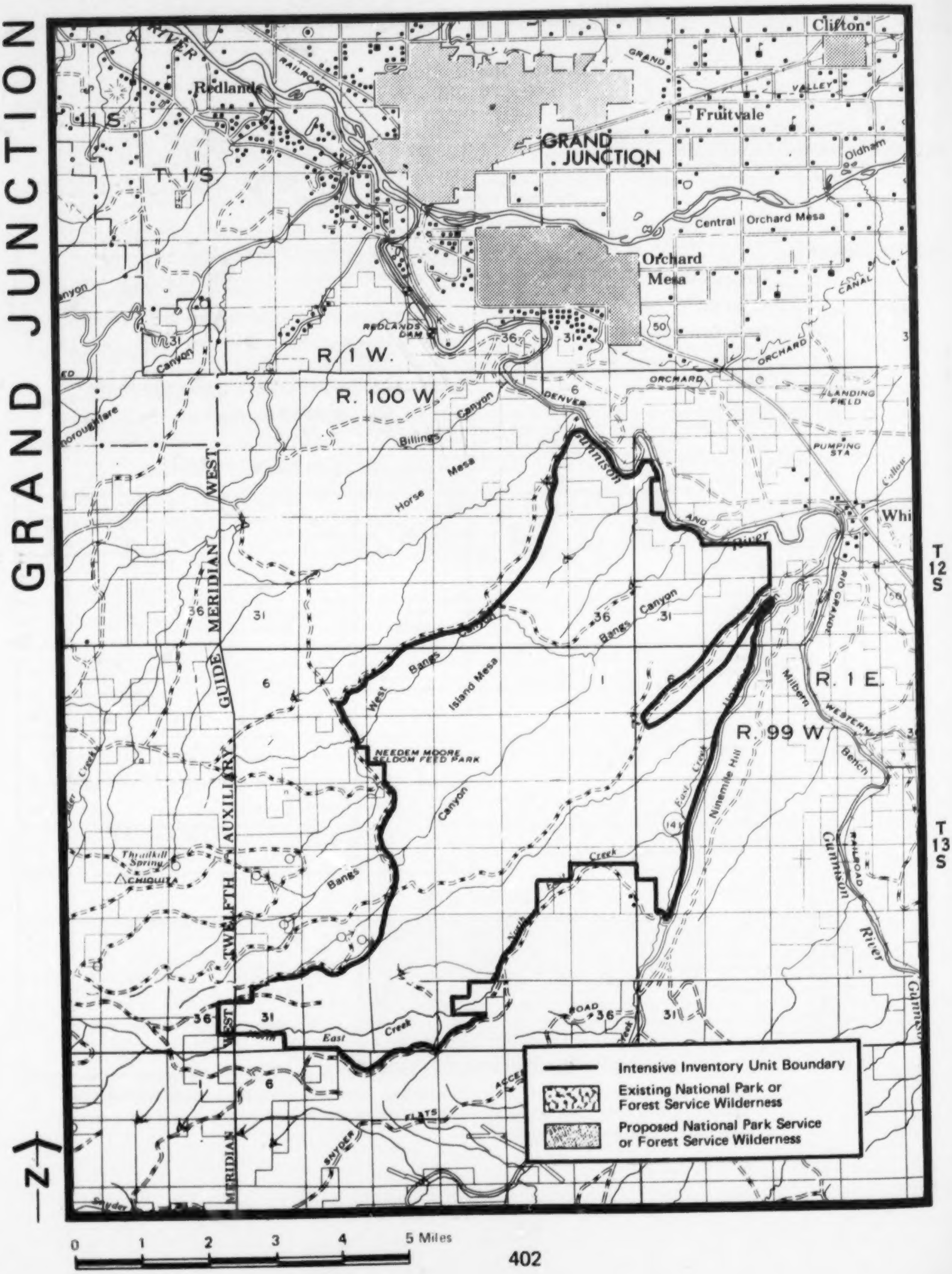
GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:
30 Colorado
1 Utah
7 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:
26 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
11 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	8			5	1	2
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		4		3		1
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.	2			2		
	FEDERAL GOVT.			1	1		
	INDIVIDUAL	16	7		19		4
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	20	1	5
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	9		2
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	1		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-070-130 Bangs Canyon


GRAND JUNCTION
Clifton
Redlands
Fruitvale
GRAND JUNCTION
Oldham
Central Orchard Mesa
Orchard Mesa
RIVER
RAILROAD
GRAND
VALLEY
CANAL
ORCHARD
REDLANDS DAM
T. 11 S.
T. 1 S.
R. 1 W.
R. 100 W.
R. 99 W.
R. 1 E.
T 12 S
T 13 S
Billings Canyon
Horse Mesa
DENVER
Gunnison
AND
River
LANDING FIELD
PUMPING STA
RIO GRANDE
WESTERN
RAILROAD
Bangs Canyon
West Bangs
Island Mesa
Canyon
Bangs
NEEDEM MOORE SELDOM FEED PARK
Milbern
Bench
Ninemile Hill
East Creek
Creek
North East Creek
Gunnison River
Thrailkill Spring
CHIQUITA
TWELFTH AUXILIARY GUIDE MERIDIAN WEST
Thoroughfare
Creek
ROAD
ACCESS
FLATS
SNYDER
Snyder
50
141
36
31
6
1
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
N
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

CO-070-130
Area Not Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

BANGS CANYON

CO-070-130

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area and will be released from further wilderness study.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 21,500 acres intensively inventoried
0 acres proposed as WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
0 acres proposed as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: X Yes ____ No

(Additions 0 acres Deletions 3 acres
(as a result of public comments)

GENERAL LOCATION: Six miles south of Grand Junction (Mesa County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: This unit was not recommended for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: As a result of public comments and field checks an area of 21,500 acres was intensively inventoried.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: During the intensive inventory, five boundary adjustments were made to exclude unnatural areas, deleting 370 acres. The resulting 21,130 acre unit was not recommended as a WSA.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: All land within the unit is public land administered by the BLM. The lands surrounding the unit are a mixture of public and private lands. None of the unit is leased for oil and gas. All of the unit is leased for livestock grazing. No easements, rights-of-way or active mining operations exist within the unit.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The Bangs Canyon unit is characterized by two major canyons draining off the east side of Pinon Mesa with many side drainages. Vegetation includes pinyon-juniper woodland; pockets of cottonwoods and willows; and ponderosa pine, oakbrush, and isolated pockets of aspen and Douglas fir on the higher mesas and upper North East Creek.

Imprints of Man: Most of man's imprints within this unit have occurred on the mesas. These include some stock reservoirs, several ways, and some fences. These imprints create a low to moderate impact on just their immediate vicinities, and overall do not adversely affect the unit's naturalness. Both of the canyon systems are free of man's imprints.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Seven comments were received stating that the area was natural. Most of these were of a general nature. Sixteen comments cited the area was not natural primarily due to fences, reservoirs, springs and a water well. Nine comments said there were roads in the unit and two said the unit was roadless. No specific road locations were given.

Field checks reviewed ways within the unit. No new roads were found. All ways were considered to be consistent with BLM guidelines. A cherry-stemmed road coming in from the Whitewater area was modified to include an area that had been constructed at one time near the end of the cherry-stem. This resulted in the removal of three additional acres. The water well being referenced is not in the inventory unit. BLM review of this unit has also determined that none of the imprints within the area have a significant impact on naturalness. Therefore, the area is considered primarily natural in character.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Opportunities for solitude do exist in the unit but these are not considered outstanding when compared with other mesa and canyon systems in the region. The main forks of Bangs Canyon are relatively straight and open and provide limited screening. The limited number and shortness of the canyons tend to concentrate people and reduce opportunities for solitude. The pinyon-juniper woodland which occurs throughout the upper part of the unit provides good screening, but this alone does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The lower one-third of the area is gently sloping with only a few scattered pinyon-juniper stands which together greatly limit opportunities for solitude.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Nineteen comments were received stating the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude and eighteen comments stated the opposite. Those stating the area has outstanding opportunities cited topographic and vegetative screening and the unit's size and shape as the reasons the unit possesses outstanding opportunities for solitude. All of the comments stating the area does not have outstanding opportunities cited outside sights and sounds; primarily, overflying aircraft, the view of Grand Junction to the south and the noises and visibility of the surrounding highway system. Outside sights and sounds cannot be considered during the inventory phase unless the impact is so extremely imposing that it cannot be ignored. Outside influences will be evaluated during the study phase.

BLM's recommendation on 2/1/80 was that the unit lacked outstanding opportunities for solitude. Opportunities for solitude were carefully field checked based on the number of comments. Field investigation verified the above rationale. The unit's size and shape do enhance opportunities for solitude in Bang's Canyon but limited topographic and vegetative screening prevent these opportunities from being outstanding. Therefore, public comments received will not alter this recommendation.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation do not exist within the unit when such opportunities are compared to other mesa and canyon systems in the region. Opportunities for hiking, backpacking, scenic viewing, and horseback riding exist within the Bangs Canyon unit, but no single resource or combination of resources make these activities outstanding. The diverse topography of the unit is one of the primary landscape features contributing to primitive recreation opportunities but not a single feature of this landscape can really be considered outstanding. Opportunities for scenic viewing are not considered outstanding because the unit's scenery as well as distant views of areas outside of the unit are common in the Uncompaghre Plateau. The relatively large size and blocked configuration of this area do enhance opportunities for primitive recreation.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Twenty-four comments were received stating that the area has outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. Activities cited as being outstanding included hiking, backpacking, rock climbing, scenic viewing and horseback riding. Reasons given for these opportunities being outstanding were: varied vegetation, scenery, canyons, geologic features and wildlife. Five comments were received stating that the area does not have outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. The reasons given included such features as too rocky, steep canyons, lack of water, and the presence of gnats.

BLM's recommendation on 2/1/80 was that the area lacked outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The primary reason given was that the opportunities available in this unit are not outstanding when compared to other mesas and canyons in the region. Field investigation has verified this recommendation. Although there are many opportunities for primitive recreation within the unit, none of these are considered to be outstanding because they are all commonly found in the region. There are no significant recreation resources or combination of resources in the unit that would lend themselves to outstanding activities. There are no significant wildlife values in the unit. Therefore, the public comments received will not alter this recommendation. Generally, the lack of water and the presence of gnats are not considered in determining if an area has outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. These are seasonal problems that recreationists usually work around.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: Several supplemental values exist within the unit. Bangs Canyon is located within six miles of Grand Junction and is thereby very accessible to its population. Cultural resources have been identified in many parts of the unit. Also, the unit has wildlife values in that the southern portion provides important deer winter range.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Twenty-one comments were received stating the unit has supplemental values. Values referenced included scenery, wildlife, vegetation, proximity to Grand Junction, archaeological values, habitat for deer and geologic features. Two comments were received that stated the unit does not have supplemental values but did not elaborate why.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

All imprints of man which occur within the Bangs Canyon Unit are considered to have a minor impact on the naturalness of the unit. Therefore, no rehabilitation measures are needed. The cherry-stemmed way coming in from Whitewater was extended to include a major cut which because of its size and vertical exposure was considered to have low rehabilitation potential. One comment was received that said that the area does not need to be reclaimed. Seventeen comments were received that stated the area has little reclamation potential because it is too hot and too arid.

RATIONALE FOR NOT IDENTIFYING THIS UNIT AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

Bangs Canyon has an adjusted acreage of 21,127 acres. In February the unit was not recommended as a WSA because of its lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Many comments were received stating the area does have outstanding opportunities. Therefore, the unit was carefully field checked. It was found that the opportunities for primitive recreation within the unit are common within the region. There are no specific recreation values that would provide for outstanding primitive recreation. The unit's topography does not lend itself well to outstanding opportunities for solitude. The canyons are generally short, straight and open and of a configuration that do not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Therefore, the unit is not recommended as a WSA.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. Since this area has not been identified as a WSA, comments addressing these concerns will be utilized by the BLM in future land use planning. Four comments were received stating that there were minimal conflicts within the unit. These all referred to mining claims that exist in the area. Eighteen comments were received stating range conflicts existed but the exact nature of the conflict was not stated. One person said that a WSA designation would cause problems for vehicle access. Nineteen comments stated that the area should not be considered as a WSA because of outside sights and sounds.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Bang's Canyon
CO 070 130

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 62

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 68
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

40 Personal Letters
Postcards
20 Public Comments Forms
1 Meetings
1 Phone Calls
Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

57 Colorado
Utah
5 Other

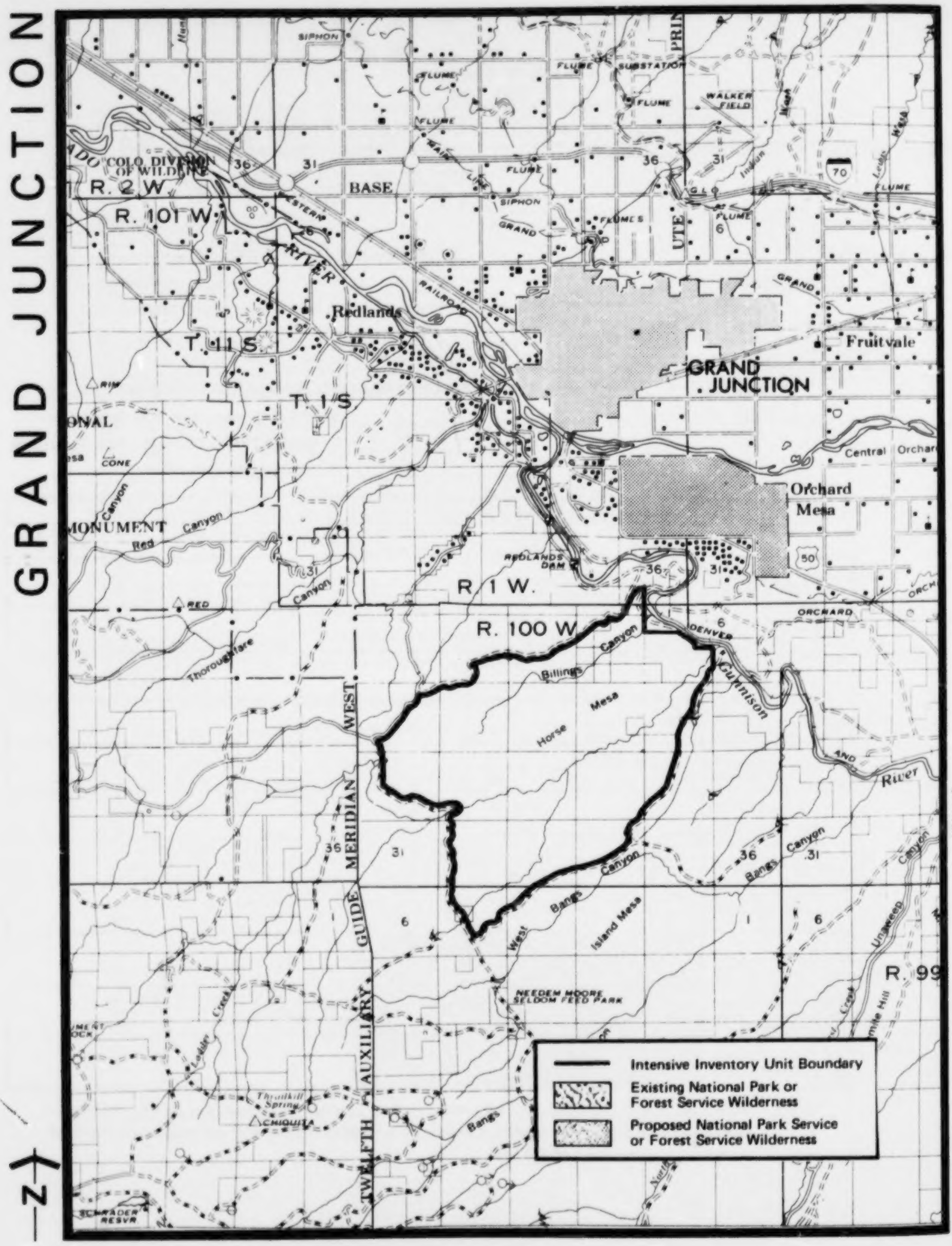
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

41 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
20 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	7			5		2
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS		1		1		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.			1	1		
	STATE GOVT.	1			1		
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	33	19		49		3
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	36		5
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	20		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	1		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-070-130A Rough Canyon


GRAND JUNCTION
N
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles
GRAND JUNCTION
Redlands
Fruitvale
Orchard Mesa
Central Orchard
BASE
R. 2 W
R. 101 W
R. 1 W.
R. 100 W
R. 99
T. 11 S
T. 1 S
T 2 S
COLO. DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
RIVER
RAILROAD
REDLANDS DAM
Billings Canyon
Horse Mesa
Bangs Canyon
West Bangs
Island Mesa
Gunnison River
DENVER AND
WEST MERIDIAN
TWELFTH AUXILIARY GUIDE
MONUMENT
Red Canyon
Thoroughfare
NEEDEM MOORE SELDOM FEED PARK
Thrailkill Spring
CHIQUITA
SCHRADER RESVR
UTE
FLUME
SIPHON
SUBSTATION
WALKER FIELD
70
50
CONE

CO-070-130A
Area Not Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

ROUGH CANYON

CO-070-130A

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area and will be released from further wilderness study.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 8,000 acres intensively inventoried
0 acres proposed as WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
0 acres identified as a WSA

GENERAL LOCATION: Three miles south of Grand Junction (Mesa County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: The unit was originally part of the 64,000 acre (Bangs Canyon unit (CO-070-130) which was not recommended for intensive inventory.)

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: As a result of public comments and a field check, an 8,000 acre unit on the northern end of CO-070-130 was recommended for intensive inventory.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: The intensive inventory determined that although this 8,000 acre unit has sufficient size and is roadless and natural in character; it does lack outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. Therefore, it was not recommended as a WSA.

OWNERSHIP

Area Description: All lands within the unit are public lands administered by the BLM. Although no mining is taking place within the unit, several mining claims do exist. The unit is not leased for oil and gas. Grazing permits cover the entire unit. The unit is surrounded by mostly public lands, with a parcel of private lands lying to the northeast of the unit.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The Rough Canyon unit is characterized by a sloping mesa-like terrain and two canyon drainages. Vegetation primarily consists of dense juniper stands in the higher elevations to grassy-saltbrush flats in the lower parts of the mesa. The canyons are generally wide and lacking in much vertical relief. Vegetation in the canyons consists primarily of pinyon-juniper woodland with saltbrush, grasses, and a few isolated cottonwood trees in the drainage bottoms.

Imprints of Man: All of the major impacts within this unit have occurred on the mesa-like terrain are related to range related projects such as fencelines, stock reservoirs, and access developments, all of which have created only a minimal impact to the naturalness of the unit.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eight comments were received stating the unit is natural. Six of these were just general statements and one said there were a few imprints on the mesas but the canyons were free of imprints and one described the unit as an arid plateau. One comment said the area was not natural and cited six stockponds, fences and a water well. These imprints all have limited visibility and in some locations are effectively screened by vegetation and topography from the rest of the unit. BLM has determined that the unit is primarily natural in character.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: The Rough Canyon unit does not contain outstanding opportunities for solitude. The unit's relatively small size and topography concentrate and restrict travel patterns to the point where isolation is severely limited. A lack of vegetative screening throughout much of the unit, plus a drainage system showing little diversity or headward branching has likewise contributed to a situation not conducive to experiencing outstanding solitude.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eight comments were received stating that the area had outstanding opportunities for solitude and one comment was received that said the area did not have these opportunities. The latter comment cited outside sights and sounds as being the primary reason. Approximately half of the comments received stating the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude were general. Others said the steep canyons and vegetation provided screening to provide these opportunities. One commenter said the size of the unit added to opportunities for solitude.

BLM's 2/1/80 recommendation on the unit was that the area did not have outstanding opportunities for solitude. The five specific comments addressing outstanding opportunities for solitude based on vegetative and topographic screening will not modify BLM's recommendation. Some isolated pockets in the unit do provide opportunities for solitude but based on the above rationale, these are very restricted. Overall, the scattered P-J cover and two canyons (both of which are very open) limit opportunities for solitude.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Although the Rough Canyon unit contains opportunities for various types of primitive recreation, these activities are not considered outstanding. There is no single recreation resource or combination of resources that provide outstanding primitive recreation in this unit. The topography of the unit tend to funnel most visitors into the unit's only major canyon, thereby confining their movement. Although the unit does have some topographic diversity, it is not considered to have sufficient landscape variety that would help to provide outstanding primitive recreation such as hiking. Opportunities for scenic viewing are not considered outstanding because the unit's scenery as well as distant vistas are common in the Uncompaghre Plateau.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Twelve comments were received stating the area has outstanding primitive recreation. One comment said the area did not have such opportunities based on a lack of drinking water and presence of gnats. Some comments claimed outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation for rock climbing, hiking, and scenic viewing. Some of the reasons given for these opportunities to be outstanding included canyon topography, slick rock, a deer herd, cultural sites and scenery.

BLM's 2/1/80 recommendation on this unit for outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation was that the unit did not have such opportunities based on the above rationale. The lack of drinking water and the presence of gnats are not considered in the evaluation of outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. Water can be carried in while trips can be scheduled other than in late spring and early summer when gnats are a problem. Why hiking and sightseeing are not considered outstanding is explained above. Rock climbing is not considered outstanding because of type of rock and general lack of challenge in the exposed rock faces in the unit. The values referenced are all considered to be in the unit to some degree but none of them singly or in combination create outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: Several supplemental values have been noted in the unit, the primary one being archaeological resources. Rock art figures have been identified in Rough Canyon believed to be of the Fremont Culture. Petroglyphs and pictographs are common.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Ten comments were received stating the area does have supplemental values. Values cited included slick rock canyons, archaeological sites, interesting geology, and habitat for deer.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

All imprints of man which occur within the boundaries of the unit exist mainly on the mesas. The bulldozed fencelines present the most noticeable visual contrast, but these are not considered to be significant impacts due to vegetative screening. One comment was received that said there was no need to reclaim the area. Another comment was received that said reclamation would take many years because of a lack of precipitation.

RATIONALE FOR NOT IDENTIFYING THIS UNIT AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The unit has not been recommended as a WSA by BLM because of its lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined recreation due to the area's small size and lack of topographic variety. Public comments have not altered this recommendation.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. Since this area has not been identified as a WSA, comments addressing these concerns will be utilized by the BLM in future land use planning. Only three comments were received stating conflicting uses. One said that the designation as a WSA would be a conflict with winter range use for cattle and two others said there were problems with WSA designation because of outside sights and sounds such as air traffic from Walker Field and the influence of the city of Grand Junction.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Rough Canyon
CO 070 130A

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 20

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 23
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:
14 Personal Letters
____ Postcards
6 Public Comments Forms
____ Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

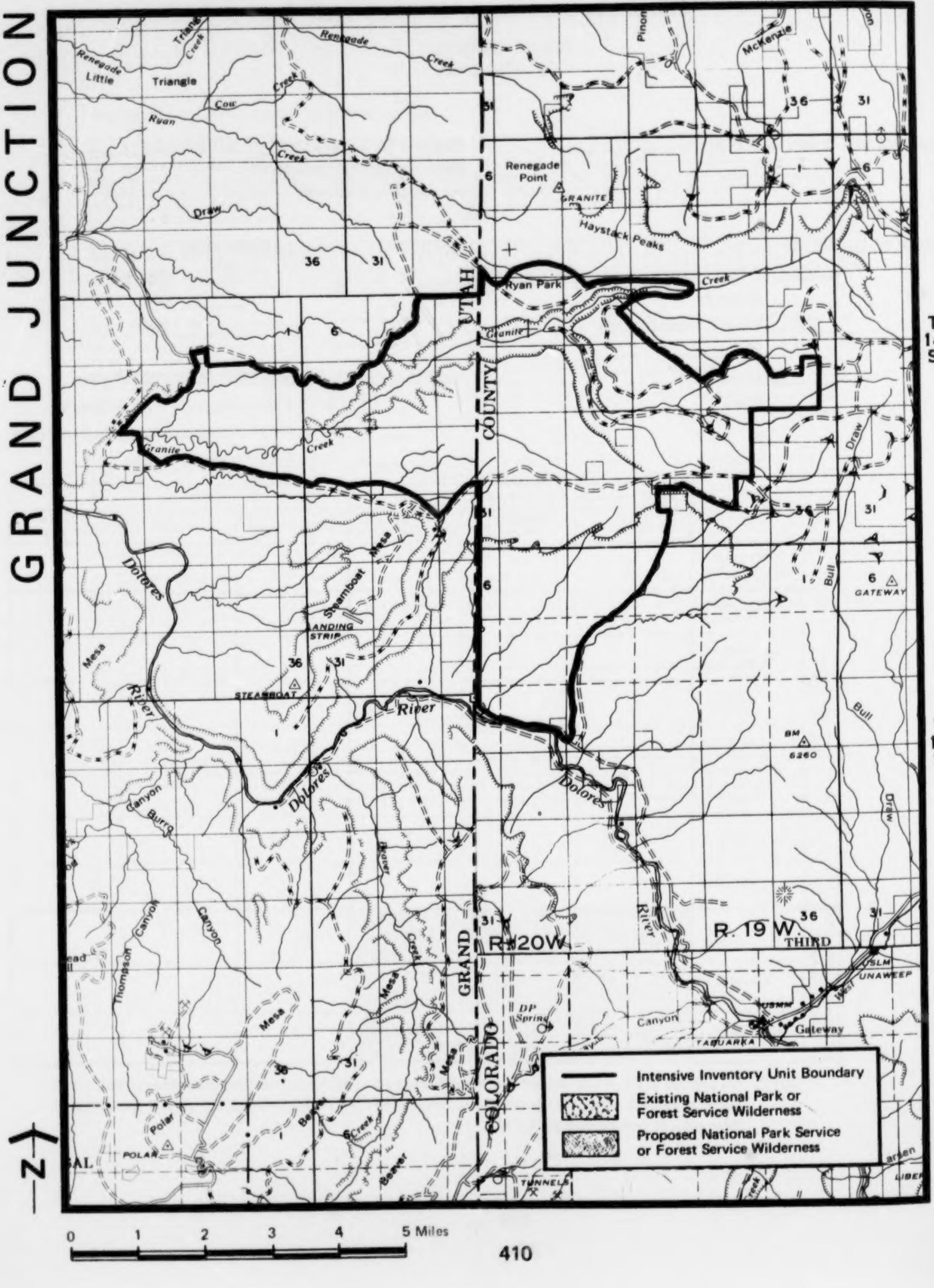
GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:
18 Colorado
____ Utah
2 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:
17 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
2 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	5			4		1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS						
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.	1			1		
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	11	2	1	13		1
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	15		2
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	2		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	1		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-070-132A Granite Creek


GRAND JUNCTION
R 104 W
T 14 S
T 15 S
R. 20 W.
R. 19 W.
THIRD
UTAH
GRAND COUNTY
COLORADO
Renegade Point
GRANITE
Haystack Peaks
Ryan Park
Granite Creek
Dolores River
Steamboat Mesa
LANDING STRIP
STEAMBOAT
GATEWAY
Gateway
UNAWEEP
TABUARKA
DP Spring
TUNNELS
POLAR
Polar Mesa
Beaver Creek
Thompson Canyon
Burro Canyon
Bull Draw
McKenzie
Triangle
Little Renegade
Ryan Creek
Cow Creek
Renegade Creek
BM 6260
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
N
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

CO-070-132A,
UT-060-122
Area Not Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

GRANITE CREEK

CO-070-132A
UT-060-122

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area and will be released from further wilderness study.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 23,800 acres intensively inventoried (CO-19,000; UT-4,800)
0 acres proposed as WSA
0 acres proposed as WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation (both CO and UT)

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____ Yes _X_ No

GENERAL LOCATION: Thirty-three miles southwest of Grand Junction (Mesa County, Colorado-Grand County, Utah)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: A 31,500 acre area consisting of 2 units in Utah (12,500 acres) and 1 unit in Colorado (19,000 acres) were proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: As a result of public comments, field investigations resulted in the Utah units being reduced in size to 11,070 acres to eliminate imprints of man. The Colorado unit remained 19,000 acres with 30,070 total acres being recommended for intensive inventory.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: Field investigation during the intensive inventory revealed the presence of several roads which divided the Colorado unit into seven sub-parts. All of these were less than 5,000 acres except the northern part of the original unit which was approximately 6,720 acres. It was designated CO-070-132B and evaluated separately. A small parcel of 5 acres in Granite Creek was also excluded because of a major imprint. Unit UT-060-122 consisting of 4,800 acres in the Moab BLM District is contiguous to CO-070-132A. Utah unit CO-060-120 was contiguous to CO-070-132 but it was separated when the northern part of the unit became a separate unit. Both of these units were evaluated as one unit during the intensive inventory. Total acreage for both the Utah and Colorado areas is 7,920 acres (CO-3,120 acres; UT-4,800 acres).

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: After boundary adjustments were made in the intensive inventory, the Granite Creek unit contains 7,920 acres of public land administered by the BLM. Of this, 4,800 acres are in Utah and 3,120 acres are in Colorado. Boundaries of Granite Creek consist of a combination of roads, Utah State lands, and private lands. All of the unit is under oil and gas lease. Grazing occurs throughout the unit by BLM permit. No easements, rights-of-way or mining claims are known to exist in the unit.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The Granite Creek unit includes two topographic divisions: Granite Creek Canyon and the mesa uplands. The canyon is the predominate feature of the unit. The portion of Granite Creek east of the SE¼, Sec. 7, T. 23 S., R. 26 E., Salt Lake Meridian consists of a relatively wide, straight canyon which is approximately 500 to 800 feet deep. The western section of Granite Creek is about 3 air miles long, but is so twisting and meandering that its actual length is approximately 7 miles. The depth of this portion is about two hundred feet. East of this point, the canyon has been impacted by the Granite Creek road which forms a boundary of the unit. Canyon vegetation includes riparian zones, grasses and sagebrush in the flood plain and scattered pinyon-juniper trees. The mesa uplands are predominately gently sloping pinyon-juniper covered hillsides. Vegetation in the western part of the unit is primarily grasses, sagebrush and other shrubs.

Imprints of Man: Imprints of man are negligible in most of the unit. Overall, the area appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Three comments were received stating the unit was natural, while one said that the area appeared to be affected primarily by the forces of nature. It also stated that the homestead in the unit did not impact the naturalness of the area. Two other comments said the area was not natural. One of these was general, while the other said there were many signs of man in the unit. Two comments said there were roads in the unit. No specific information on the nature or location of either the signs of man or roads was provided.

There are no known roads in the unit.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Opportunities for solitude do exist in the unit, but are less than outstanding. The narrow shape of the unit varying from less than a mile to about two miles wide adversely affect opportunities for solitude within the unit boundaries. Terrain above the canyon rim is broadly sloping to hilly; vegetation is predominately pinyon-juniper, ranging from moderately dense in the eastern end to sparse in the western end. The overall open characteristic of the topography and vegetation does not provide outstanding screening potential. The eastern portion of Granite Creek is relatively wide and straight, with the boundary road running down the center. The broad mesas overlook the narrow strip between the road and canyon walls, limiting opportunities for solitude. The western three miles of the canyon have a different character: narrow and meandering, generally less than ¼ mile wide and 100 to 200 feet deep. Riparian vegetation provides some screening in a narrow strip along the creek. The limited extent of this type of topography and vegetative screening, especially in conjunction with the proximity of unit boundaries in this area, render opportunities for solitude less than outstanding.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Seven comments were received on solitude. Five stated the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude. The reasons given included vegetative screening, steep canyon walls and the tight meanders of the lower seven miles of the canyon. One general comment said the unit does not possess outstanding solitude.

Because a major part of this unit is in Utah, the BLM in Utah has taken the lead in inventorying this unit. Their findings were that the unit does not possess outstanding opportunities for solitude. The reasons for this conclusion are the unit's narrow configuration, the character of the topography and vegetation above the rim, and the general openness of the unit. The canyon in the western one-half is not considered to provide outstanding opportunities because of its limited extent especially in conjunction with the proximity of the unit's boundaries. No comments have been received to alter this recommendation on the unit.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation within the unit are not outstanding. Recreational opportunities center around hiking, scenic viewing, hunting, and fishing. Recreational opportunities would in general be constrained by the narrow configuration of the unit. Hiking opportunities would be limited throughout the unit except for the western end of Granite Creek Canyon, due to lack of focal features and challenging terrain. Backpacking in the western end of the canyon would be limited by its short extent. Opportunities for day hikes do exist in this area enhanced by high scenic values. However, the short extent of the western part of the canyon, the lack of challenging terrain, and its proximity to boundaries render opportunities less than outstanding. The Dolores Triangle is known for deer hunting; opportunities in this unit exist but are not outstanding. The west end of Granite Creek has been stocked with brook trout and provides some fishing opportunities; however, these are limited in extent. There is no single recreational opportunity that is outstanding in nature due to challenge, uniqueness, or extent, nor is there a sufficient variety of recreational opportunities to provide outstanding opportunities.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Seven comments were received stating that outstanding opportunities existed in the unit. Activities cited included bird watching, hiking, backpacking and climbing. Several comments addressed the importance of the canyon in the western one-half as the primary reason that these opportunities were considered to be outstanding. One general comment said the area did not possess outstanding primitive recreation opportunities but did not elaborate.

The BLM in Utah found the area to lack outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. No comments have been received to change this recommendation. Recreation opportunities do exist but they are not considered outstanding based on the above rationale.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: The supplemental values present in this unit include geologic formations of educational value, an ideal habitat for raptors, and outstanding scenery. Granite Creek's tightly meandering course has created goosenecks displaying unusual pinnacles, fins and windows. Eagles, hawks, and owls appear to be nesting in the canyon area as well. The perennial water in lower Granite Creek and the trout fisheries are also supplemental values.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Nine comments were received stating various supplemental values that are included in the unit. These included the old homestead, a granite dike, interesting rock formations, fish, wildlife including eagles and other raptors and scenery.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

All imprints of man in the unit are considered to have a minor impact on naturalness. The ways will rehabilitate naturally if closed. Only one comment was received on reclamation; it was a general statement that the unit does not have reclamation potential.

RATIONALE FOR NOT IDENTIFYING THIS UNIT AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

Granite Creek received twenty-eight comments supporting the unit as a WSA. Four comments were received opposing this designation. Many of these comments stated the area does have outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Most of these comments address the Utah portion of the unit. The Colorado portion of the unit is not considered to have outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation. Therefore, it is recommended that the primary determination of the unit's qualification be determined by BLM in Utah.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after September 1980. Comments addressing the following concerns will be retained for these future land-use decisions.

The only conflict identified was minerals. The specific problem was not identified.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Granite Creek
CO 070 132A

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 19

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 51
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

16 Personal Letters
____ Postcards
2 Public Comments Forms
____ Meetings
1 Phone Calls
____ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

16 Colorado
1 Utah
2 Other

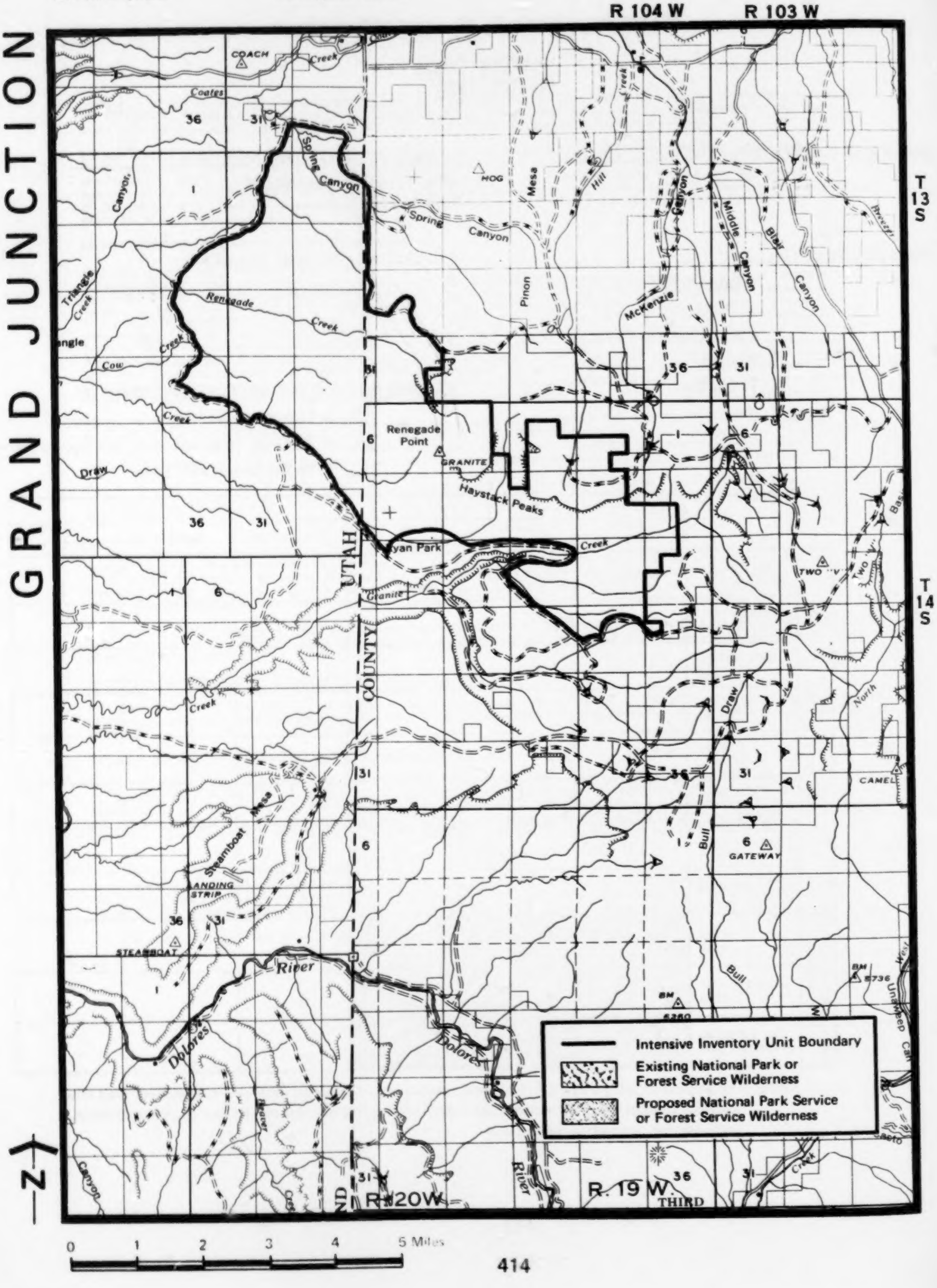
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

18 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
____ # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	6			4	1	1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS						
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.	1			1		
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	11	1		11		1
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	15	1	2
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	1		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨			

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-070-132B Renegade Creek


GRAND JUNCTION
R 104 W
R 103 W
T 13 S
T 14 S
R. 20 W.
R. 19 W.
THIRD
UTAH
COUNTY
Renegade Point
GRANITE
Haystack Peaks
Spring Canyon
Renegade Creek
Triangle Creek
Cow Creek
Draw
Coates Creek
COACH
HOG
Mesa
Pinon
Hill Creek
McKenzie Canyon
Middle Canyon
Blue Canyon
Ryan Park
Creek
Granite
TWO V
Steamboat Mesa
LANDING STRIP
STEAMBOAT
Dolores River
Bull Draw
GATEWAY
CAMEL
North
BM 5736
BM 5280
Unaweep Canyon
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
N
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

CO-070-132B,
UT-060-120
Area Not Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

RENEGADE CREEK

CO-070-132B,
UT-060-120

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area and will be released from further wilderness study.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 25,270 acres intensively inventoried (CO-19,000 acres; UT-6,270 acres)
0 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation (both CO and UT)
0 acres proposed as WSA (both CO and UT)

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____ Yes X No

GENERAL LOCATION: Thirty miles southwest of Grand Junction (Mesa County, Colorado; Grand County, Utah)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: A 19,000 acre unit in Colorado and a 6,800 acre unit in Utah totaling 25,800 acres were proposed for intensive inventory. CO-070-132B was to become the northwestern part of the unit in Colorado (CO-070-132A).

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: As a result of public comments and cursory field checks, the 19,000 acre CO-070-132A was still recommended for intensive inventory. It was noted that comments on roads in the unit required further field checking. Contiguous Utah unit UT-060-120 consisting of 6,800 acres was also recommended for intensive inventory.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: Field investigation during the intensive inventory revealed the presence of roads that resulted in the northern part of Colorado's CO-070-132A (Granite Creek) being completely separated and redesignated Renegade Creek, CO-070-132B. This unit was combined with Utah's UT-060-120 which includes 6,270 acres. The Utah unit was divided by a road in its southern part that resulted in 460 acres being excluded. (Balance of acreage change in Utah unit is due to refined acreage calculation.) Three major imprint areas required further modification of the boundaries. These were a chaining, a mining exploration area and a fence exclosure. Utah and Colorado did not recommend the unit as a WSA because it lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: After intensive inventory boundary adjustments, the Renegade Creek unit contains 12,990 acres of public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management. Of this, 6,720 acres are in Colorado and 6,270 acres are in Utah. All of the unit is under oil and gas lease. Grazing use occurs throughout the unit by BLM permit. No easements or rights-of-way occur in the unit. Some mining claims do exist along the Ryan Creek Road.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The Renegade Creek Unit consists of three topographic divisions: mesas, mountain slopes, and creek bottoms. The mesas in the unit stairstep from Pinon Mesa and include two isolated mesas in the western part of the unit. The mountain slopes in the unit are gently sloping along a north-south orientation or are very steep along a NW-SE orientation. Pinyon-juniper woodlands are the dominant vegetation on these landforms; however, the upper mesas are covered with sagebrush and mountain brush. Creek bottoms are generally an open V-shape in configuration and have riparian vegetation. Renegade Creek is the major drainage in the unit and its lower channel has cut through a granite boulder field.

Imprints of Man: Imprints of man in the unit are two reservoirs and associated ways. One reservoir occurs on the mesa top and the other on a gentle mountain slope. Both reservoirs and ways have a low to moderate impact on naturalness.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Three comments said the area was affected primarily by natural forces. Another comment said the area contained reservoirs, ditches and a fence but not specific locations were given. One person said there are roads in the unit but no specific locations were given. The BLM has inventoried these imprints and does not consider any of them to be significant imprints because they are substantially unnoticeable due to limited area of visibility, natural screening and revegetation. There are no known roads in the unit.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Opportunities for solitude are not considered to be outstanding. The area's narrow configuration limits opportunities for solitude since people are concentrated into an area that does not permit horizontal separation. The steeply sloping topography which occurs in the southern and eastern part of the unit tends to further limit opportunities for solitude since people would avoid these very steep slopes, thus increasing the probability of encountering others in the flatter portions of the unit. The probability of encountering others in the Renegade Creek drainage is high since this is the only main canyon in the area and it is fairly straight and open in character, with only a moderate cover of riparian vegetation. Opportunities for solitude are further restricted by the open nature of the gently rolling, scattered pinyon-juniper slopes in much of the Utah portion.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Two general comments were received stating the area has outstanding solitude. One comment said there are many opportunities for solitude, especially in the "side canyons". Two comments received stated the area lacked outstanding solitude because of the sparse vegetation and shallow drainages. Another comment cited outside sights and sounds as a reason the unit's opportunities for solitude are less than outstanding.

BLM's recommendation on 2/1/80 was that the unit lacked outstanding opportunities for solitude. The reasons given included the unit's narrow configuration along with its gentle sloping topography and open vegetative cover. No comments provided specific information which could alter this recommendation. The letter referring to the "side canyons" providing solitude is believed to apply to other units also being referenced and not Renegade Creek. Outside sights and sounds are not a consideration during the inventory phase according to BLM policy unless they are so extremely imposing they cannot be ignored.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: The Renegade Creek unit provides for hiking, horseback riding, scenic viewing, observation of nature, and photography but none are considered to be outstanding. The area's narrow configuration in conjunction with its steeply sloping topographic characteristics in the southern and eastern part of the unit, inhibits the freedom of movement throughout the entire unit. Heavy mountain brush also restricts this movement in the upper elevations. The areas that can be used for primitive recreation are primarily the gently sloping, rolling, scattered pinyon-juniper covered hills in the Utah and southeastern portion of the unit in Colorado but these generally do not lend themselves to outstanding primitive recreation opportunities. Renegade Creek is the principal drainage in the unit. The drainage is open and V-shaped with limited areas of riparian vegetation. Trees along this water course are very scattered. Such drainages are common in the area.

Evaluation of Public Comments: : Three comments were received stating the area has outstanding opportunities for bird watching, backpacking, climbing and hunting. One general comment said the unit did provide outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. Two comments said that opportunities available were not considered to be outstanding. One of these comments elaborated by stating the ridge which dominates the unit limits opportunities along with the lack of focal features.

BLM's recommendation on 2/1/80 was that the unit lacked outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. Although the BLM agrees that the opportunities mentioned in the comments are present, the unit's narrow configuration, steeply sloping topography, vegetation patterns and lack of outstanding recreational values are combined to limit these opportunities. No specific comments were received that would alter this recommendation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: Supplemental values in the unit include the high scenic quality of Renegade Point and Haystack Peaks, as well as the geologic interpretive values of Pinon Mesa.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Eight comments were received stating the area has supplemental values. Values cited were rock formations, interesting canyons and wildlife.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

All imprints of man which occur within the unit are considered to have low to moderate impacts on naturalness. Therefore, special rehabilitation efforts are not needed. One general comment was received stating the area does not have reclamation potential.

RATIONALE FOR NOT IDENTIFYING THIS UNIT AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

After intensive inventory boundary adjustments to exclude imprints of man, the combined acreages of contiguous inventory units CO-070-132B and UT-060-120 is 12,990 acres which is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. The area appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature. However, the unit does not have outstanding opportunities for solitude due to the area's narrow configuration, the generally open nature of the western part of the unit, and the steeply sloping topography in the eastern and southern portion of the area. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are considered to be less than outstanding due the unit's configuration and its lack of significant recreation resource values. Supplemental values include high scenic quality of the Renegade Peak area and geologic interpretive values. Overall, the unit does not meet all of the criteria to become a Wilderness Study Area.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. Since this area has not been identified as a WSA, comments addressing these concerns will be utilized by the BLM in future land use planning. One comment said that there would be range conflicts if the area was designated as a WSA because it provides the only livestock water in the general area.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Renegade Creek
CO 070 132B

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 15

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 15
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

13 Personal Letters
___ Postcards
2 Public Comments Forms
___ Meetings
___ Phone Calls
___ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

11 Colorado
1 Utah
3 Other

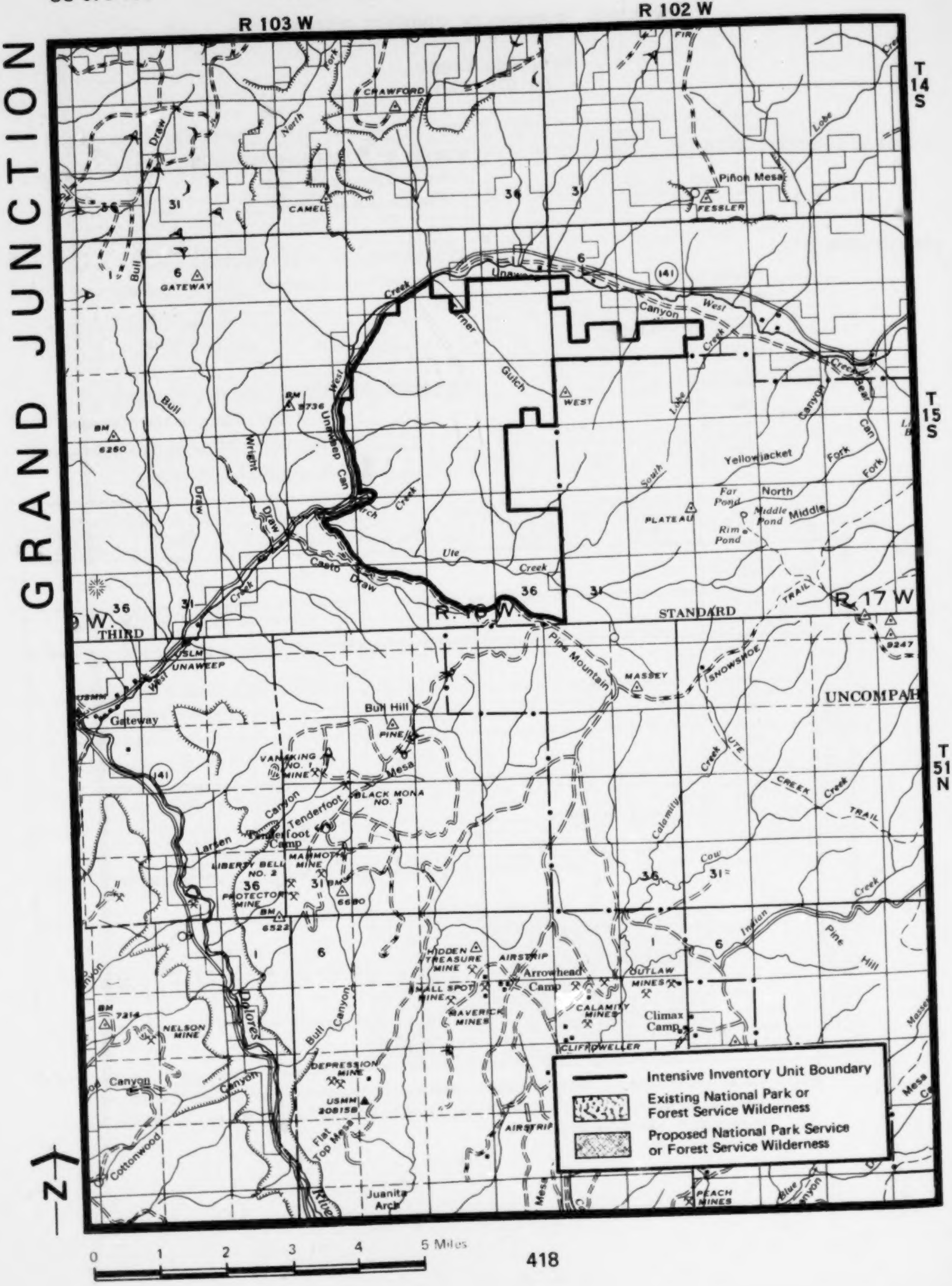
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

14 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
___ # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	5			3	1	1
	INDUSTRY/BUSINESS						
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.	1			1		
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	8	1		7		2
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	10	1	3
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	1		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨			

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-070-138 West Unaweep


R 103 W
R 102 W
T 14 S
T 15 S
T 51 N
R 17 W
GRAND JUNCTION
CRAWFORD
CAMEL
GATEWAY
Piñon Mesa
FESSLER
Unaweep
Canyon
West Creek
West Unaweep Canyon
Bull Draw
Wright Draw
Ute Creek
Casto Draw
WEST
Gulch
South Lake
Yellowjacket
North Fork
Middle Fork
Far Pond
Middle Pond
Rim Pond
PLATEAU
STANDARD
THIRD
UNAWEEP
Gateway
Bull Hill
PINE
Pine Mountain
MASSEY
SNOWSHOE
UNCOMPAH
Ute Creek Trail
VANKING NO. 1 MINE
BLACK MONA NO. 3
Tenderfoot Mesa
Tenderfoot Camp
Larsen Canyon
LIBERTY BELL NO. 2
MAMMOTH MINE
PROTECTOR MINE
Calamity
Cow Creek
Indian Creek
Pine Hill
HIDDEN TREASURE MINE
AIRSTRIP
Arrowhead Camp
OUTLAW MINES
SMALL SPOT MINE
MAVERICK MINES
CALAMITY MINES
Climax Camp
CLIFFDWELLER
NELSON MINE
Dolores
Bull Canyon
DEPRESSION MINE
Cottonwood
Flat Top Mesa
Juanita Arch
PEACH MINES
N
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

▬	Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
▨	Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
▩	Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness

CO-070-138
Area Not Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

WEST UNAWEEP

CO-070-138

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area and will be released from further wilderness study.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 8,900 acres intensively inventoried
0 acres proposed as WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
0 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____Yes X No

GENERAL LOCATION: Five miles northeast of Gateway (Mesa County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: A 9,100 acre unit was proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: As a result of a field check which indicated a road in the extreme southwestern corner, a 8,900 acre unit was intensively inventoried.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: The intensive inventory field check revealed roads and visually significant range improvements in the northeastern portion of the unit and therefore, 540 acres were deleted. The remaining 8,360 acres were not recommended as a WSA because of their lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: All land within the unit is administered by BLM. To the east of the unit lies a 680-acre private parcel and the Uncompaghre National Forest; to the north and east is a mixture of public and private lands, and to the south lie public lands. Although no mining is taking place within the unit, several mining claims and oil and gas leases do exist. Grazing permits cover the unit.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The West Unaweep unit varies in physiographic features from steep granite cliffs on the north to the thousand foot deep Ute Creek Canyon in the south. Also included are steep side canyons draining into the creek and a gently sloping mesa top. The forces of nature are apparent in the geologic structure of the unit which was created by an uplifting of the Uncompahgre Plateau, perennial and intermittent streams, and differential weathering. Vegetative patterns vary with the different geologic features. The unit contains areas of semiarid vegetation, riparian zones along the streams, and sagebrush/oakbrush/pinyon-juniper mixes on the higher elevations. There are also some isolated stands of aspen, ponderosa pine, and Douglas fir in the more moist areas.

Imprints of Man: No significant imprints of man are found in the unit. The intensive inventory located a road and some visually significant range projects and these were deleted (540 acres).

Evaluation of Public Comment: All five comments that were received stated the area is natural. All of these were general statements.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Primarily, due to the unit's small size, configuration and topographic setting, the West Unaweep unit does not contain outstanding opportunities for solitude. The presence of a heavily travelled county-maintained road forming the southwestern boundary and Colorado Highway 141 following the northern boundary allows for a regular traffic flow to encompass the unit on three sides. Both Ute Creek and Unaweep Canyon are geologically structured in such a way that they act as natural echo chambers and transmit vehicular sounds to all portions of the unit. Topographic and vegetative screening are present throughout many different areas of the unit, but travel patterns are greatly restricted by dense oakbrush and rugged topography. These along with private property to the east tend to concentrate people in the same areas or along the same routes. Also, the unit's small size and significant amount of vertical terrain further decrease opportunities for solitude by concentrating people.

Evaluation of Public Comment: Six comments were received stating the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude. Two comments were general. Other reasons given included: canyons, contiguous to the Ute Creek area, and the fact that the BLM should not be considering outside sights and sounds during the inventory phase. One comment referenced outside sights and sounds as a reason for the area lacking outstanding solitude.

BLM's recommendation on 2/1/80 was that the unit lacked outstanding opportunities for solitude due primarily to the unit's small size, topographic setting, and major sound impacts (see above). BLM Organic Act Directive 78-61, Change 3 states outside sights and sounds may be considered only in situations where the imprint is so extremely imposing that it cannot be ignored. Such is the situation in CO-070-138 where vehicle noises on 3 sides of the unit in combination with topography seriously impair opportunities to experience outstanding solitude. Two people said the deep side canyons and/or dense brush enhance solitude. However, the canyons' steepness and heavy brush would generally tend to concentrate people in the more open areas. Another person said the Ute Creek area is contiguous and this would enhance opportunities. Ute Creek alone is not considered to make the unit outstanding. It too is influenced by outside sights and sounds primarily from the road on the wall of Ute Creek.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are not present in the West Unaweep unit due to several factors. Activities such as hunting, horseback riding, backpacking, and general sightseeing are greatly restricted due in part to the unit's small size, rugged nature, and dense vegetation of the steep, narrow side canyons. In addition, a 680-acre parcel of private land forming part of the eastern boundary impedes good access to the mesa top, making it necessary to either cross the private land or locate another route via the side canyons. Thick oakbrush and pinyon-juniper stands likewise restrict most travel to the open sage flats on the mesa. In general, these factors provide the unit with less than outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Five comments were received stating the area has outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. Two of these comments identified rock climbing as an outstanding activity in this unit. One comment said the area had outstanding opportunities because it is adjacent to a RARE II area proposed as part of the Colorado conservation proposal. Another comment stated the area's rugged terrain and dense vegetation enhances opportunities for primitive recreation. The other comment was general.

BLM's recommendation on 2/1/80 was that the unit lacked outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Lack of these opportunities are based primarily on the unit's small size, its rugged nature and the dense vegetation of the steep narrow side canyons. Thick oakbrush and pinyon-juniper stands likewise restrict travel in the unit. Rock climbing on the granite cliffs of the unit is not considered outstanding because these rock outcrops are not considered particularly challenging. The USFS did not accept the Colorado conservation proposal, therefore the adjacent RARE II area was not proposed for wilderness.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: Several significant supplemental values exist within the West Unaweep unit. The mesa tops afford crucial winter habitat for mule deer and elk. The varied topography and elevation have created a diversity of habitats. The steep granite cliffs forming Unaweep Canyon are of scenic, scientific, and educational interest.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Seven comments were received on supplemental values. The values referenced included the unit being adjacent to a RARE II area that's part of the Colorado conservation proposal, the areas's canyons, critical deer winter range, archaeology, geologic formations and interesting land forms.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

All imprints of man which occur within the adjusted boundaries of the unit are considered to have a minor impact on the unit's overall naturalness. Therefore, they do not require any special rehabilitation efforts. One comment on reclamation said man's imprint in the unit is small. Another said the imprints are "correctable".

RATIONALE FOR NOT IDENTIFYING THIS UNIT AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The West Unaweep unit is of sufficient size (8,360 acres) to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. Most of the unit is primarily natural and appears to be affected essentially by natural forces. Due to the area's size and physiographical situation the unit does not have outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The dominant influence of vehicle noises cannot be ignored in that they are present throughout the unit thereby diminishing opportunities for solitude. Some supplemental values do exist within the unit. Overall, the unit does not meet all the criteria to be a Wilderness Study Area and therefore is not being recommended.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. Since this area has not been identified as a WSA, comments addressing these concerns will be utilized by the BLM in future land use planning. One comment was received that said the unit should not qualify as a WSA because of the "constant parade" of vehicles driving by the edge of the unit.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

West Unaweep
CO 070 138

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 14

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 14
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

11 Personal Letters
____ Postcards
3 Public Comments Forms
____ Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

10 Colorado
1 Utah
3 Other

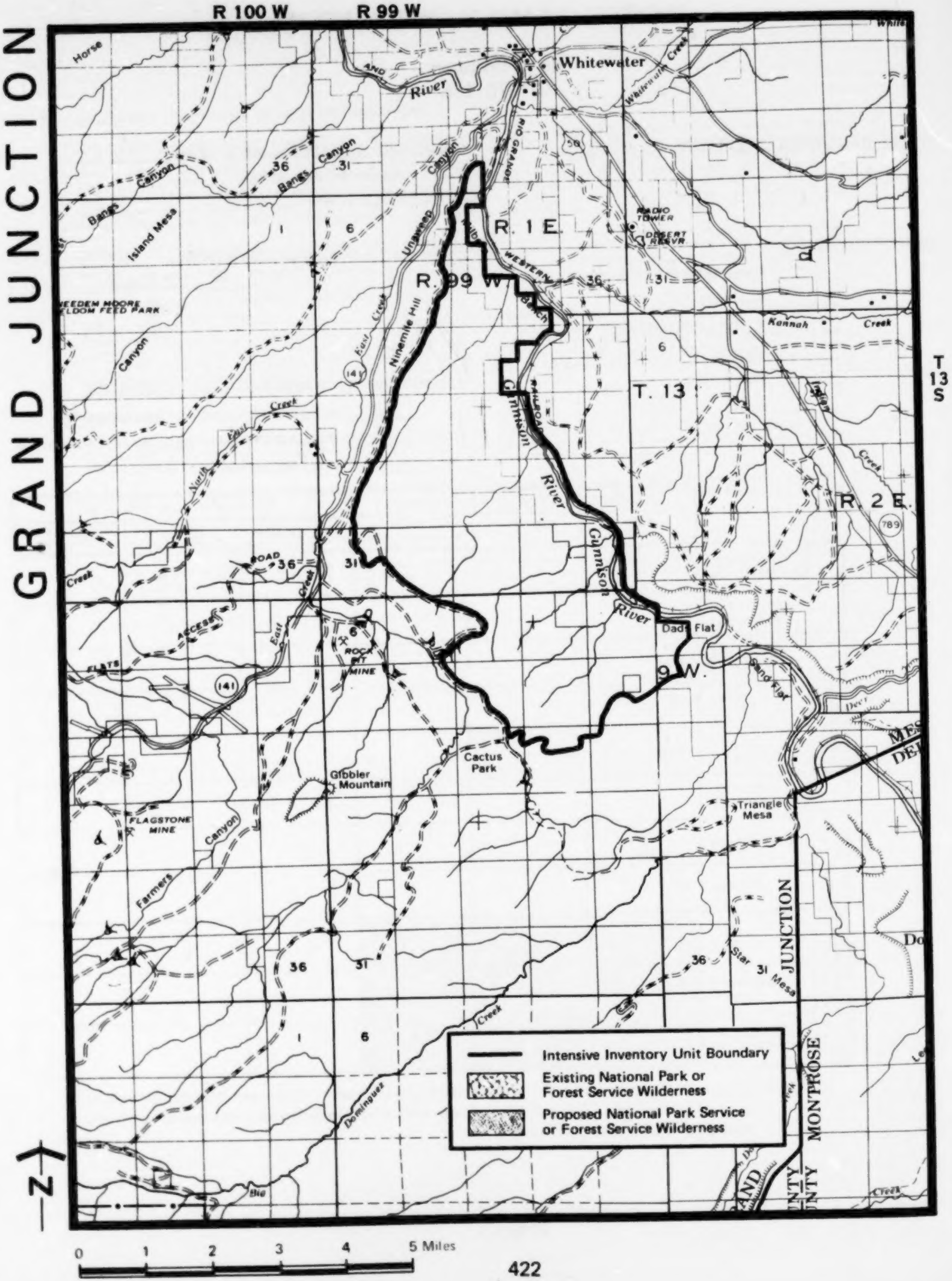
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

13 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
0 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	4			2	1	1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS	1			1		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	8		1	7		2
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	9	1	3
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨			
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	1		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-070-150A Gunnison River


GRAND JUNCTION
R 100 W
R 99 W
T 13 S
Whitewater
Gunnison River
R. 1 E.
R. 99 W.
R. 2 E.
T. 13
Dads Flat
Cactus Park
Gibbler Mountain
Triangle Mesa
Island Mesa
Radio Tower
Desert Resvr
Rock Pit Mine
Flagstone Mine
Unaweep Canyon
Ninemile Hill
Kannah Creek
Dominguez Creek
Star Mesa
Grand Junction
Montrose
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
N
0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles

CO-070-150A
Area not Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

GUNNISON RIVER

CO-070-150A

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area and will be released from further wilderness study.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 11,600 acres intensively inventoried
0 acres proposed as WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
0 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____Yes __X__No

GENERAL LOCATION: Twelve miles southeast of Grand Junction (Mesa County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: A 12,700 acre unit was proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: As a result of public comments and field checks, a 11,600 acre unit was intensively inventoried.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: The intensive inventory field check determined that a 50 acre boundary adjustment was needed to exclude several reservoirs, a fenceline and a road which had a significant cumulative impact. The remaining 11,550 acres were not recommended as a WSA because of their lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: The unit is bordered by the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad, private land, a transmission line, a communication site, and roads. The area is covered by existing grazing units, plus numerous mining claims are concentrated in the Nine Mile Hill Area. Several tracts of land have been withdrawn for federal power sites along the Gunnison River.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The Gunnison River unit varies in topographic features from gently rolling hills and northwest trending canyons in the western portion to a rugged and rocky escarpment of the Morrison Formation and redrock canyons of the Entrada Formation in the eastern part. Vegetative patterns range from a scattered pinyon-juniper woodland on the plateau to slopes generally devoid of vegetation above the Gunnison River in the eastern part of the unit.

Imprints of Man: After boundary changes were made, the unit appears to be affected primarily by the work of nature with only minor imprints remaining. These imprints are composed of ways and reservoirs and occur in the western portion of the unit. However, their cumulative impact on the naturalness of the entire unit is minimal.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Seven comments were received stating the area was natural and two said the unit was partially natural. One comment said there is an "illegal trespass road" in the unit and one said there are four wheel drive tracks. The road being referenced forms the southern boundary of the unit.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: The Gunnison River unit does not have outstanding opportunities for solitude. A scattered pinyon-juniper woodland together with gently rolling relief limit opportunities for solitude in the western half of the unit. Very steep, open slopes generally devoid of shrubs or trees limit opportunities to experience outstanding solitude in the eastern one-half. Canyons present in the southeastern portion of the unit are relatively short, straight, and narrow thereby limiting opportunities for solitude. They have minimal branching to allow disbursement of people. The very steep slope that runs from the Gunnison River along the eastern boundary to an approximate north-south line in the center of the unit creates a very open landscape with an ease of visibility. Solitude is also limited by the unit's narrow configuration, (¼ mile to ½ to 3 miles) which tends to concentrate people.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Twelve comments were received stating the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude based primarily on vegetative and topographic screening. Half of these comments were of a general nature. The specific comments referenced such factors as vegetative screening, cliffs, canyons and size as helping to provide solitude. BLM's recommendation on 2/1/80 was that the unit lacked outstanding opportunities for solitude. A scattered woodland with gently rolling hills on the western half; and very steep, open slopes in the eastern half along with a narrow configuration in combination, limit opportunities to experience outstanding solitude. The unit's narrow configuration and topography tend to concentrate people along the edge of the river and above the rim of the escarpment.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are not present in the unit. The unit's narrow configuration along with the steeply sloping nature of the eastern half restricts unconfined movement within the unit. The unit does provide for hiking, rockhounding, general observation of nature, scenic viewing, photography and floatboating, but none of these are considered outstanding. The lack of landscape diversity in the western half and the very steep slopes of the eastern half limit opportunities. Interesting rock formations and the Gunnison River in the eastern half, and redrock canyons in the southeastern part of the unit do provide focal features for hiking, nature observation and photography but these are relatively common in the region and are not considered to provide outstanding opportunities. The rockhounding materials in the unit, consisting of agates, petrified wood, and fossils, are also common in the region. Floatboating through the unit, although popular as a part of the longer Gunnison River trips, is very slow and presents little challenge. Many scenic vistas can be seen from the rim overlooking the Gunnison River but these are not considered especially significant.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Fifteen comments were received stating the area has outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. Activities considered to be outstanding included: hiking, viewing petroglyphs, and floatboating. Outstanding opportunities were based on the area's steep canyons, the cultural resources and the diverse landscape. BLM's recommendation on 2/1/80 was that the unit lacked outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. See the above rationale. No comments have been received that would alter the recommendation that the unit does not have outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: The unit's close proximity to the large urban area of Grand Junction is considered a supplemental value. Rockhounding values are present in the unit because of agates, fossils, and petrified wood that are commonly found in the region. Archaeological sites dating from the Fremont Culture and historic sites are cultural values found in the area.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Fifteen comments were received stating that the unit has supplemental values. Values referenced included waterfowl, deep canyons, petroglyphs and other archaeological values and geologic values.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

This unit does not possess any major imprints of man; therefore, rehabilitation efforts are not required. Six comments were received that the unit has reclamation potential. Some of these said that reclamation wasn't really necessary.

RATIONALE FOR NOT IDENTIFYING AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The Gunnison River unit is of sufficient size to make practicable its use in an unimpaired condition. The area retains its primeval character with the forces of nature and their effect on the unit readily apparent, while those imprints of man that do occur are considered to be minor. Primarily due to the unit's narrow configuration, general lack of landscape diversity and other resource values, opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation do not exist in the unit. Supplemental values include proximity to Grand Junction, cultural, and rockhounding values. The unit is not recommended for a W.S.A. because it does not have the required wilderness characteristics.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. Since this area has not been identified as a WSA, comments addressing these concerns will be utilized by the BLM in future land use planning. Two comments cited the Dominguez Reservoir project as a conflict.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Gunnison River
CO 070 150A

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 30

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 30
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

24 Personal Letters
___ Postcards
6 Public Comments Forms
___ Meetings
___ Phone Calls
___ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

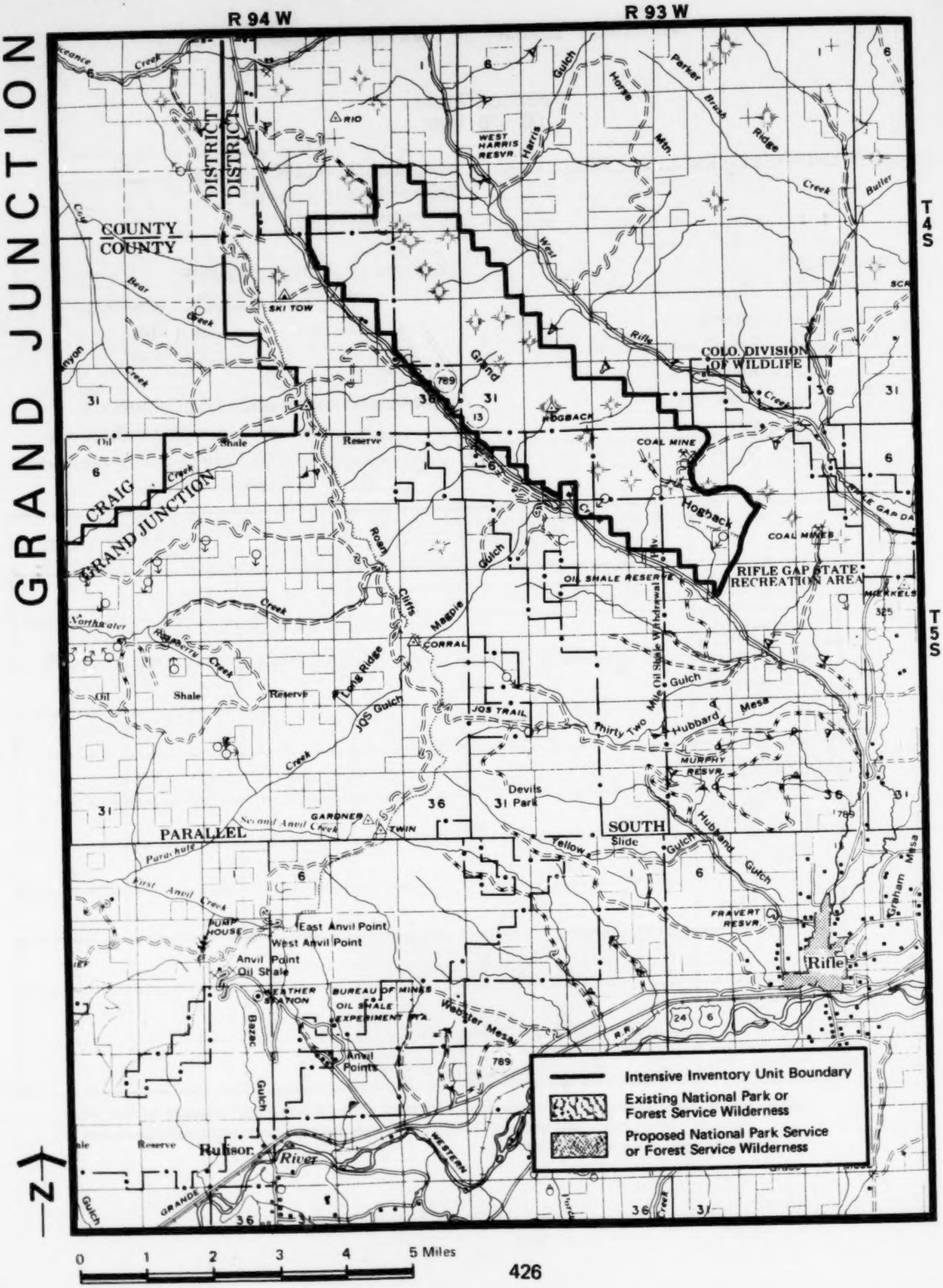
23 Colorado
1 Utah
6 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

27 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
2 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	6			3	1	2
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS	1		1	2		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.		1		1		
	STATE GOVT.	1			1		
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	18	1		15		4
	OTHER	1			1		
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	20	1	6
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	2		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨	1		

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.


GRAND JUNCTION
R 94 W
R 93 W
T 4 S
T 5 S
DISTRICT
DISTRICT
COUNTY
COUNTY
CRAIG
GRAND JUNCTION
WEST HARRIS RESVR
Parker Brush Ridge
Horse Mtn.
Harris Gulch
West Rifle Creek
Butler Creek
SKI TOW
RIO
Bear Creek
Grand Hogback
HOGBACK
COAL MINE
COAL MINES
Hogback
COLO. DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
RIFLE GAP STATE RECREATION AREA
RIFLE GAP DA
MEKKELS
Oil Shale Reserve
OIL SHALE RESERVE
Roan Cliffs
Gulch
Magpie
CORRAL
Northwater
Raspberry Creek
Long Ridge
JQS Gulch
JQS TRAIL
Thirty Two Mile Gulch
Oil Shale Withdrawal
Hubbard Mesa
MURPHY RESVR.
Hubbard Gulch
Devils Park
GARDNER
TWIN
Second Anvil Creek
PARALLEL
SOUTH
Yellow Slide Gulch
Parachute
First Anvil Creek
PUMP HOUSE
East Anvil Point
West Anvil Point
Anvil Point
Oil Shale
WEATHER STATION
BUREAU OF MINES OIL SHALE EXPERIMENT STA.
Webster Mesa
Bazec Gulch
Anvil Points
FRAVERT RESVR.
Rifle
Graham Mesa
24
6
789
13
R.R.
Rulison
River
WESTERN
GRANDE
Reserve
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
N
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

GRAND HOGBACK

CO 070-316

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area and will be released from further wilderness study.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 9,000 acres intensively inventoried
0 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
0 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____Yes __X__ No

GENERAL LOCATION: North of Rifle, southeast of Rio Blanco, north of U.S. Highway 13 (Garfield County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: A 11,700 acre unit was proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: After receipt of public comments and a field check, a 9,000 acre unit was intensively inventoried.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: Following the intensive inventory field work, the unit was not recommended as a WSA.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: After boundary adjustments in the initial phase were made, approximately 8,550 acres of roadless and primarily natural land had been identified. No boundary adjustments were proposed during the intensive analysis. The configuration of the unit is approximately two miles wide and six to seven miles long, oriented southeast to northwest. All lands within the intensive study area are public lands administered by BLM. Along the western boundary are several parcels withdrawn for a silt reclamation project. Grazing allotments cover much of the area. Several oil and gas leases exist within the unit.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The topography of the Hogback is characterized by steep cliffs, sandstone outcroppings, and short deeply incised ravines. A single jagged ridgeline bisects the unit lengthwide, thus the name Hogback, reaching a top elevation of 8,943 feet. The low elevation in the unit is in the extreme southeast at about 6,000 feet. Vegetation types include scrub oak, pinyon-juniper, and a small amount of aspen in the northern part of the unit. Vegetation density varies considerably, with the southwestern side having sparse vegetation and the northeastern more densely vegetated.

Imprints of Man: The Grand Hogback unit is a rugged crest of a fault line which appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. Several minor modifications of man, such as short distances of dead end fences and ways, occur along the periphery. All these imprints of man with the exception of one way are substantially unnoticeable due to steep topography and dense ground vegetation screening the modifications. The way consists of highly visible road cuts in the immediate area, incapable of rehabilitation, but due to the steep topography the way is provided with screening from a distance.

Evaluation of Public Comments: No comments addressed the naturalness of the unit.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: The Grand Hogback unit possesses opportunities for solitude in the drainage bottoms. However, due to the narrow configuration of the unit, these opportunities for solitude are not outstanding. Although outside sights and sounds are generally not considered in this inventory, the closeness of roads and heavy traffic volume on both sides of the unit in conjunction with the single ridgeline running the length of the entire unit cannot be ignored in this case. Very few chances for feelings of seclusion are available, and none can be considered outstanding.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Four comments noted that the unit's narrow width and lack of vegetative or topographic screening from outside sights and sounds, negated outstanding opportunities for solitude. No comments were received stating that the area did offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

The BLM's intensive inventory field work noted that outside sights and sounds are factors generally reserved for the study phase of the wilderness review. However, the closeness of the roads and heavy traffic volumes on both sides of the unit significantly impair the units ability to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. In this unit, the presence of outside sights and sounds have been considered in the evaluation of solitude as an exception because the traffic corridors on both sides of the unit and the topography of the unit which directs an individuals perspective toward those traffic corridors at all times.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Although the diversity of landforms and geological formations provide this area with ample opportunities for sightseeing and photography, the opportunities are not considered outstanding. The combination of small size, narrow configuration, and rugged terrain (limiting opportunities on foot) restrict any other opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation and none can be considered outstanding.

Evaluation of Public Comments: One comment received noted that the Hogback unit was typical of western Colorado topography and those opportunities could not be considered outstanding. The BLM's recommendation that the unit does not contain outstanding primitive and unconfined recreational opportunities remains unchanged. This recommendation is based on a combination of small size, narrow configuration and rugged terrain limiting recreational opportunities.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: The geologic formation of the Hogback, sandstone outcroppings, and the natural arch give some geologic and scenic value to the unit. Nesting sites of Red Tail Hawk and Golden eagle, documentation of black bear and the possibility of reintroducing Big Horn Sheep in the area give the unit some significant supplemental values.

Evaluation of Public Comments: No comments addressed supplemental values within the unit.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

Those impacts occurring with the unit are minimal. With the exception of the way coming in from the northern boundary, all impacts are capable of returning to a substantially unnoticeable condition by either natural processes or by hand labor. Due to the substantial cuts into steep slopes along the way in the north and relative minor impact to the rest of the unit, rehabilitation would not be feasible.

Evaluation of Public Comments: No comments were received on the reclamation potential for impacts of man within the unit's boundaries.

RATIONALE FOR NOT IDENTIFYING THIS UNIT AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

Outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are not offered in this unit. The narrow configuration in conjunction with the single, steep rugged ridgeline running the length of the unit severely restricts any such opportunities. Outside sights and sounds, considered as an exception because of their dominance within the unit, cannot be ignored as they are inevitable throughout the entire length of the unit due to these same factors. Although the impact of the way in the northern portion is minimal to the unit as a whole, it does create an impairment to the naturalness and rehabilitation is infeasible. Therefore, the Grand Hogback unit does not meet the criteria for a W.S.A.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. Since this area has not been identified as a WSA, comments addressing these concerns will be utilized by the BLM in future land use planning. Five comments were received identifying outside sights and sounds as a conflict with W.S.A. designation.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Grand Hogback
CO 070 316

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 6

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 6
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

6 Personal Letters
____ Postcards
____ Public Comments Forms
____ Meetings
____ Phone Calls
____ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

6 Colorado
____ Utah
____ Other

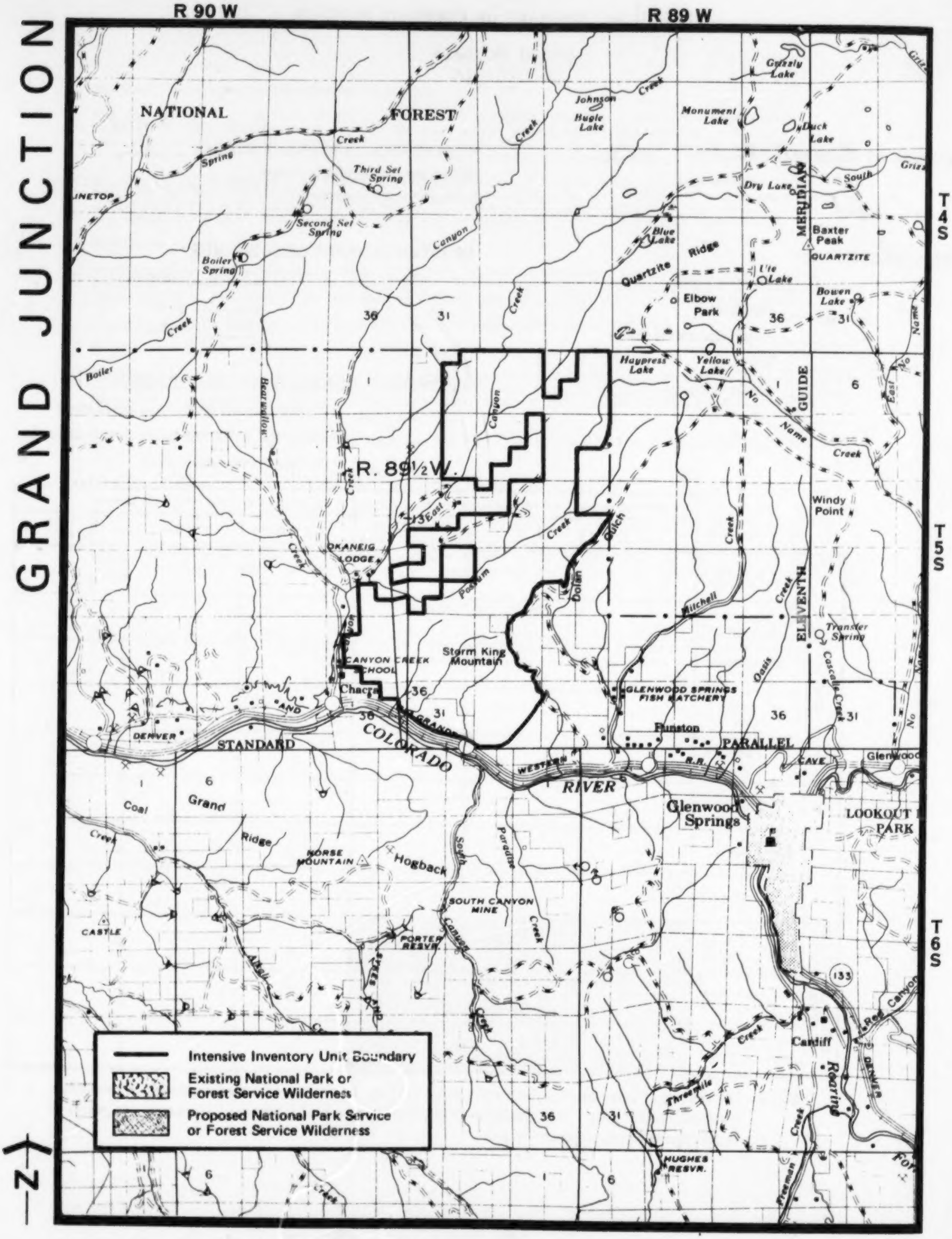
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

1 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
5 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
0 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.						
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS						
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	1	5		6		
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	1		
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	5		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨			

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-070-338 Storm King


GRAND JUNCTION
R 90 W
R 89 W
R. 89½ W.
T 4 S
T 5 S
T 6 S
NATIONAL FOREST
Spring Creek
Third Set Spring
Second Set Spring
Boiler Spring
Boiler Creek
Canyon Creek
Johnson Creek
Hugle Lake
Monument Lake
Grizzly Lake
Duck Lake
Dry Lake
South
MERIDIAN
Baxter Peak
QUARTZITE
Blue Lake
Quartzite Ridge
Ute Lake
Elbow Park
Bowen Lake
Haypress Lake
Yellow Lake
GUIDE
No Name Creek
East No Name
Windy Point
Bearwallow Creek
East Canyon Creek
OKANEIG LODGE
Possum Creek
Dolan Gulch
Mitchell Creek
ELEVENTH
Transfer Spring
Storm King Mountain
CANYON CREEK SCHOOL
Chacra
Oasis Creek
Cascade Creek
GLENWOOD SPRINGS FISH HATCHERY
Funston
PARALLEL
STANDARD
DENVER AND RIO GRANDE WESTERN R.R.
COLORADO RIVER
CAVE
Glenwood Springs
LOOKOUT PARK
Coal Creek
Grand Ridge
HORSE MOUNTAIN
Hogback
South Canyon Creek
Paradise Creek
SOUTH CANYON MINE
PORTER RESVR.
CASTLE
Alkali Creek
Threemile Creek
Cardiff
Roaring Fork
Red Canyon
Freeman Creek
HUGHES RESVR.
133
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
N
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

STORM KING

CO-070-338

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area and will be released from further wilderness study.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 7,000 acres intensively inventoried
0 acres proposed as WSA in 2/1/80 recommendation
0 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 proposal: ____Yes X No

GENERAL LOCATION: 2 1/2 miles west of Glenwood Springs; immediately north of I-70 (Garfield County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: A 7,450 acre unit was proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: As a result of public comments and a field check, a 7,000 acre unit was intensively inventoried.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: Following the intensive inventory field work, the unit was not recommended as a WSA.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: A total of 2,440 acres were deleted from the unit during the intensive inventory in the northern portion to exclude a major way, ditch, trail, cabin, and fenceline, creating a serious impairment to the naturalness. The major way is the boundary of the deleted area and is constructed on steep slopes with highly visible cuts. After these boundary adjustments, acreage of potential intensive study area remaining is less than 5,000 acres, all administered by BLM. The unit is bounded by private and public lands. There is a stock driveway withdrawal in Sections 16, 17, 19, and 20. Oil and gas leases exist in the SW corner. Much of the unit is covered by existing grazing allotments.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The Storm King unit is characterized by rugged topography and contrasting vegetation types from aspen and fir to scrub oak and bare exposed red rock.

Imprints of Man: After the above mentioned boundary adjustments, the naturalness of the unit is disrupted by the impacts of grazing, a stock driveway along Possum Creek, ways that dead end in the unit entering from the eastern boundary, and a dry reservoir, all of which create only a minimal impact to the natural state of the unit.

Evaluation of Public Comments: One comment addressed fences, ways and old drill sites. With the exception of the dead end ways entering the unit from the eastern boundary, these impacts are located outside the inventory unit boundaries. These impacts have been documented in the intensive inventory and were found to create only a minimal impact because of the existence of vegetative and topographic screening.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: The type of solitude available in the Storm King unit is not uncommon in the surrounding local and regional area and not considered outstanding. Because of the irregular configuration of the unit, small size, and steep topography, isolation is severely limited. The unit's opportunities for solitude cannot be considered to be outstanding.

Evaluation of Public Comments: The only public comment received which addressed solitude referred to "outside sights and sounds" which is not normally considered at this stage of the review process.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: The small size, irregular configuration, and rugged topography of the unit diminish the value of the primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The topography and dense scrub oak vegetation is confining, limiting travel to the ridge along Storm King Mountain, Possum Creek, and a few intermittent streambeds off of Possum Creek. A natural transportation route within the unit north to south or east to west does not exist without a substantial physical barrier of extremely steep topography and dense vegetation to impair travel. The irregular configuration presents a definite conflict to the unconfined nature of recreation, limiting the amount of area available.

Evaluation of Public Comments: No public comment was received.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: The unit is within five miles of Glenwood Springs, allowing close access to a population center of approximately 6,000.

Evaluation of Public Comments: The one public comment received mentioned that the area supports a large deer and elk population.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

Area Description: Most evidences of man have been eliminated from the intensive inventory unit. Along Possum Creek, evidence of grazing is apparent and will continue as long as the stock driveway is in regular use. Presently, the impact is minimal. The area will naturally rehabilitate if grazing use is discontinued in this specific locale. The way would be difficult to rehabilitate due to deep cuts into steep, rocky slopes. No public comments addressed this issue.

RATIONALE FOR NOT IDENTIFYING THIS UNIT AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The Storm King unit is a relatively small tract of land which is irregularly shaped and extremely rugged. Upon elimination of major imprints of man, the unit does not meet the 5,000 acre criteria for W.S.A. The size of the intensive study unit does approach the required 5,000; however, due to the irregular shape and rugged topography outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation do not exist. Therefore, the Storm King unit does not meet the necessary criteria for a W.S.A.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. Since this area has not been identified as WSA, comments addressing these concerns will be utilized by the BLM in future use planning. One comment mentioned a conflict with timber management.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Storm King
CO 070 338

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 2

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 2
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

___ Personal Letters
___ Postcards
2 Public Comments Forms
___ Meetings
___ Phone Calls
___ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

2 Colorado
___ Utah
___ Other

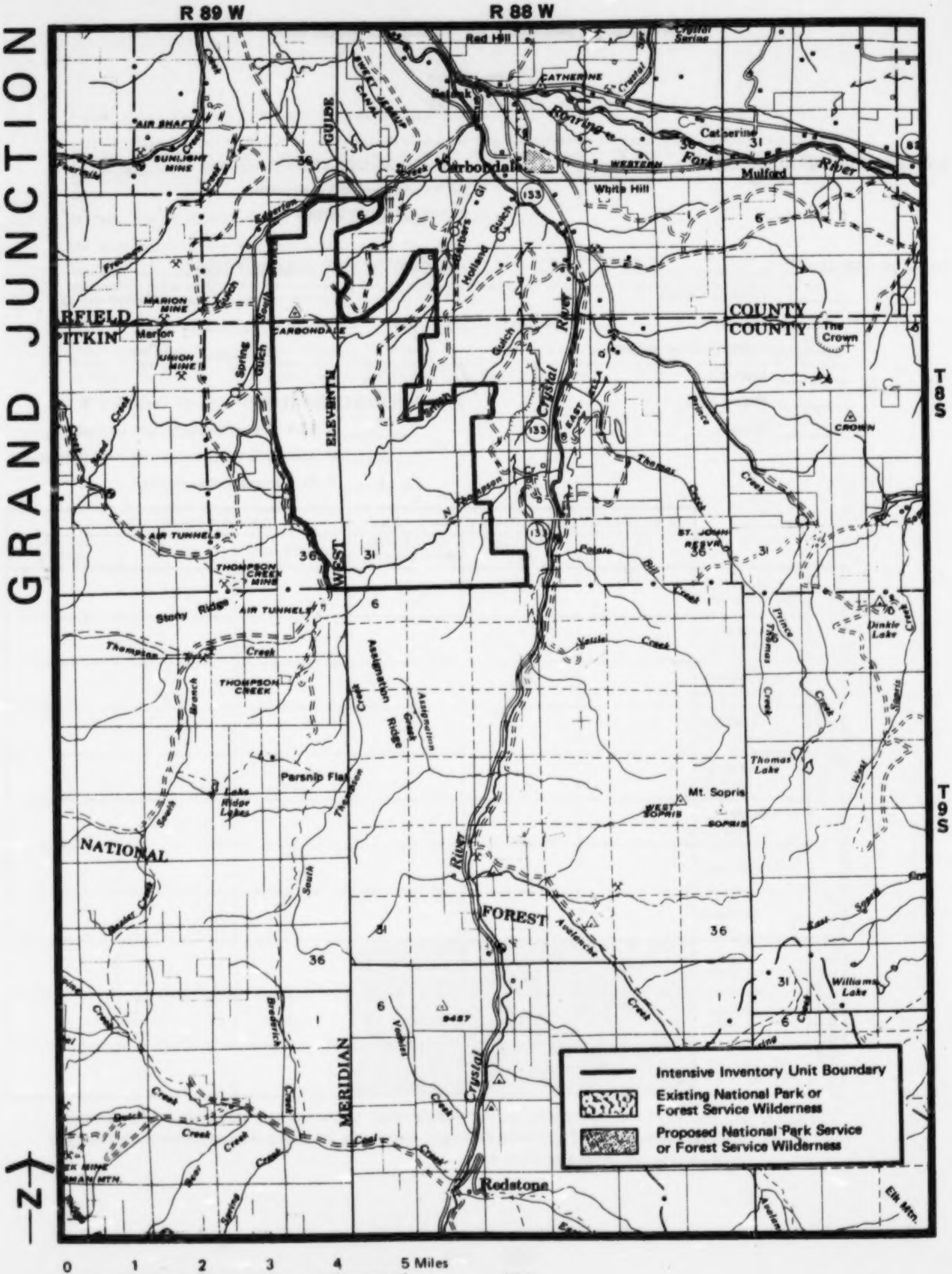
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

0 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.						
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS						
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL		2		2		
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨			
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	2		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨			

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

CO-070-372 Thompson Creek


GRAND JUNCTION
R 89 W
R 88 W
T 8 S
T 9 S
N
Red Hill
Crystal Spring
CATHERINE
Roaring Fork
Catherine
Mulford
River
WESTERN
Carbondale
White Hill
133
AIR SHAFT
SUNLIGHT MINE
GUIDE
Edgerton
Freeman
MARION MINE
Marion
UNION MINE
GARFIELD
PITKIN
COUNTY
COUNTY
The Crown
CARBONDALE
ELEVENTH
WEST
Spring Gulch
South
Holland Gulch
Crystal River
Prince Creek
CROWN
Thomas Creek
N Thompson
AIR TUNNELS
THOMPSON CREEK MINE
ST. JOHN RESVR
Potato Bill Creek
Stony Ridge
AIR TUNNELS
Thompson Creek
Branch
THOMPSON CREEK
Assignation Ridge
Assignation Creek
Nettle Creek
Dinkle Lake
Prince Creek
Thomas Creek
Parsnip Flat
Lake Ridge Lakes
Thompson
Thomas Lake
Mt. Sopris
WEST SOPRIS
SOPRIS
West Sopris
NATIONAL
FOREST
River
Avalanche
South
East Sopris
Williams Lake
Creek
Bredrich
MERIDIAN
Coal Creek
Crystal
Redstone
Elk Mtn.
Creek
Spring
Bear Creek
Gulch
6
31
36
1
9457
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
0
1
2
3
4
5 Miles

CO-070-372
Area Not Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

THOMPSON CREEK

CO-070-372

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISION (11/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area and will be releaed from further wilderness study.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 8,800 acres intensively inventoried
0 acres proposed as a WSA in 2/1/80 recommendations
0 acres identified as WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____Yes X No

GENERAL LOCATION: Southwest of Carbondale and U.S. Highway 82; south of Glenwood Springs (Garfield and Pitkin Counties)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: A 9,700 acre unit was proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: As a result of public comment and a field check, a 8,800 acre unit was intensively inventoried.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: 4,330 acres were deleted in the intensive inventory field work because of the impacts of ways in the northern portion of the unit. The remaining 4,200 acres were not recommended as a WSA because of the lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: Approximately 4,330 acres in the northern half of the unit were deleted during the intensive inventory. This deletion was made after several major ways were documented in this portion of the unit, especially a way bisecting the unit NE to SW constructed with cuts into steep slopes with many dead end ways leading from it. After deleting this northern portion from the unit, approximately 4,200 acres of primarily natural land administered by BLM exist, therefore, making the unit of insufficient size for wilderness consideration.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The Thompson Creek unit is primarily characterized by the unique geological formations found along the Thompson Creek Canyon which remains in a relatively natural condition. Spruce-fir and riparian habitat characterize the Thompson Creek area. The dense pinyon-juniper, oak brush vegetation typical of the northeastern portion provides effective screening for the imprints of man occurring in this area.

Imprints of Man: After the above mentioned boundary adjustments, the intensive study unit appears to be primarily affected by the forces of nature and is provided with effective vegetative screening for the minor imprints of man that do exists. These include: a trail with a few deteriorating stone abutments which form an old railway, a trail register and rail fence, a way, a fenceline, a reservoir, and an abandoned gold mine.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Two comments supported the BLM's recommendation that the unit remains natural in character.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: The Thompson Creek unit does have opportunities for solitude due to the topographic character of the steep rock walls, numerous gulches and pinyon-juniper and spruce-fir vegetative screening. Thompson Creek itself provides opportunities for isolation and the northern portion of the unit also offers some additional opportunities. However, due to the small size of the unit and limited travel routes because of extremely steep cliff walls, the existing opportunities are definitely restricted and are not considered to be outstanding.

Evaluation of Public Comment: Three comments addressed solitude opportunities in the Thompson Creek unit. One stated outstanding solitude exists without giving supporting rationale. Another indicated that solitude is available because so few people use the canyon. The third indicated that solitude was available because of the numerous gulches, dissected cliffs and dense vegetation. The BLM recommendation stated that solitude was available but because of extremely steep cliff walls and limited transportation routes, that solitude was not considered outstanding.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Opportunities for primitive types of recreation do exist within the unit due to the unique geologic formations and diverse forms of vegetation and wildlife, but the unconfined nature of the recreation criteria cannot be met. Opportunities for hiking and backpacking, fishing, hunting, sightseeing, nature study, photography, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing all exist within the unit. Although there are diverse and numerous activities available, the small size of the unit and limited transportation routes (due to the nearly vertical cliff walls along the short 2 1/2 mile length of Thompson Creek) severely restricts the unconfined nature of the recreation criteria. Therefore, outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation do not exist in the Thompson creek unit.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Two comments indicated that numerous recreational activities such as hiking, skiing, camping, backpacking, fishing, hunting, nature study and sightseeing are available in the unit. No comments mentioned the limited transportation route or confining nature of the vertical cliffs in the 2 1/2 mile canyon. The BLM recommendation agrees that numerous recreational activities area available in the canyon but these activities are confined by the near vertical cliffs of the canyon walls and therefore the recreational activities cannot be described as outstanding primitive and unconfined.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: The Thompson Creek area was proposed by BLM as a Natural Environmental Area in 1974 and an Environmental Analysis Report was prepared. In 1975, a Management Plan was written for the Thompson Creek N.E.A. as well as plans for an Outdoor Education Program. In 1976 an Antiquities Report was prepared for the N.E.A. This area encompasses the Intensive Study Area of the Thompson Creek unit. Cultural and historical interest is generated from evidence of Ute Indian folklore, the discovery of a dinosaur footprint and the remains of an old railway.

Evaluation of Public Comments: Three comments pointed out the areas unique geologic and historic values. Other comments mentioned the abandoned gold mine, wildlife habitat, dinosaur fossils and Ute Indian cultural resources as supplemental values.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

All modifications of man within the intensive study unit have a minimal impact or are capable of returning to a substantially unnoticeable condition (way, fenceline, reservoir) either by natural processes or by hand labor. One public comment mentioned that the unit is in a natural state and reclamation of impacts will not be necessary.

RATIONALE FOR NOT IDENTIFYING THIS UNIT AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The BLM's decision not to recommend the Thompson Creek unit as a W.S.A. was based on the intensive field inventory findings that the unit did not meet the size, solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation criteria for W.S.A. designation.

After boundary adjustments made in the intensive inventory, Thompson Creek unit consists of 4,200 acres making it of insufficient size to be considered for further study. Outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation exist but due to the small size, these opportunities are not unconfined in nature. For this same reason, opportunities for solitude are not outstanding. Therefore, the Thompson Creek unit does not meet the criteria for a W.S.A. Although numerous comments suggested that the unit be considered with the adjacent conservation group supported RARE II area, the U.S. Forest Service administration proposals does not include this land for potential wilderness designation. The BLM's policy is to consider only those units which are adjacent to lands under wilderness consideration when BLM units do not meet the required size criteria for W.S.A. designation. The BLM does recognize that the unit does have unique geologic and historic values that deserve protection however because of the extremely steep cliffs, limited transportation routes and confining nature of 2 1/2 mile narrow canyon the unit cannot be considered to have outstanding solitude or primitive and unconfined recreational opportunities. Since the unit does not qualify for W.S.A designation, alternative administrative measures will continue to be used to protect the geologic and historic values.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

Other resource values and potential resource conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. Since this area has not been identified as a WSA, comments addressing these concerns will be utilized by the BLM in future land use planning. One comment addressed the need for protection from motorized vehicles within the canyon.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Thompson Creek
CO 070 372

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 16

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 16
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

15 Personal Letters
___ Postcards
1 Public Comments Forms
___ Meetings
___ Phone Calls
___ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

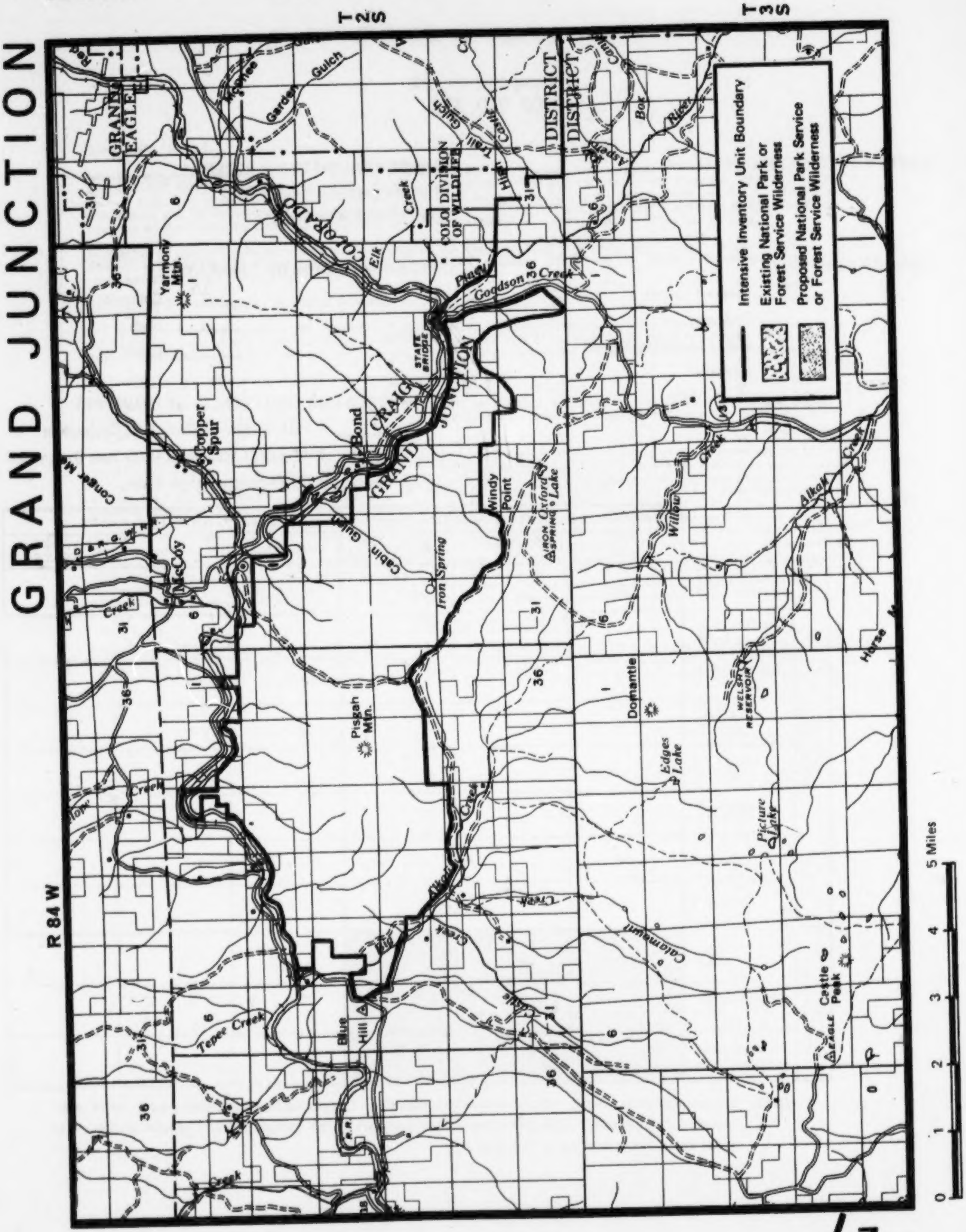
15 Colorado
___ Utah
1 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

16 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
0 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
0 # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.	4			3		1
	INDUSTRY/ BUSINESS						
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	12			12		
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	16		
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨			
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨			

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.


GRAND JUNCTION
T 2 S
T 3 S
R 84 W
GRAND JUNCTION
EAGLE
DISTRICT
DISTRICT
CRAIG
GRAND JUNCTION
COLORADO
COLO. DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
Intensive Inventory Unit Boundary
Existing National Park or Forest Service Wilderness
Proposed National Park Service or Forest Service Wilderness
Yarmony Mtn.
Copper Spur
Bond
McCoy
State Bridge
Windy Point
Oxford Lake
Iron Spring
Pisgah Mtn.
Domantle
Edges Lake
Welsh Reservoir
Picture Lake
Castle Peak
Blue Hill
Garden Gulch
Cabin Gulch
Elk Creek
Piney
Goodson Creek
Willow Creek
Alkali Creek
Tepee Creek
Horse Mtn.
Calamount
Box
River
Conger Mesa
0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles
N

CO-070-421
Area Not Identified as a
Wilderness Study Area

PISGAH MOUNTAIN

CO-070-421

PROPOSED WSA DECISION (2/1/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

FINAL WSA DECISON (11/80): Unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area and will be released from further wilderness study.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

Size: 15,518 acres intensively inventoried
0 acres proposed as WSA in 2/1/80 recommendations
0 acres identified as a WSA

Boundary Adjustments from 2/1/80 Proposal: ____Yes X No

GENERAL LOCATION: West of State Bridge on State Highway 131 (Eagle County)

INVENTORY HISTORY:

Proposed Initial Inventory Decision 3/14/79: A 15,518 acre unit was proposed for intensive inventory.

Final Initial Inventory Decision 8/31/79: A 15,518 acre unit was intensively inventoried.

Proposed WSA Decision 2/1/80: Following the intensive inventory field work the unit was not proposed as a WSA.

OWNERSHIP:

Area Description: Approximately 8,100 acres in the western portion of the unit were deleted in the intensive analysis. Seven ways with associated forks (concentrated in the southern half of the deleted area) have been documented, several of which are major impairments due to cuts into steep slopes. Developed springs, reservoirs and fencelines in the deleted area also impaired the naturalness due to their close proximity in a limited amount of area. Approximately 6,950 acres of BLM administered land to the east were found to be roadless and primarily in a natural state. Oil and gas leases and grazing allotments occur within this portion of the unit. Silver and gold placers have been reported along the Colorado River. A powerline withdrawal exists along the northern boundary.

NATURALNESS:

Topography and Vegetation: The steep, rolling topography and red rock cliffs along the river accentuate the natural features within the Pisgah Mountain unit. The occasional aspen stands and spruce-fir provide a transition from the typical pinyon-juniper, scrub oak, sagebrush, and dry rock grassland vegetation that dominates the unit.

Imprints of Man: After boundary adjustments (mentioned above) the land within the unit remains primarily affected by the forces of nature. A few minor modifications of man occur near the boundaries (ways, fenceline, and reservoirs), but the imprint of man is substantially unnoticeable due to the effective vegetative screening and varied topography.

Evaluation of Public Comments: One comment was received which agreed with the BLM's recommendation that the unit was natural in character and suggested it would remain so because of the inaccessability of the unit.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE:

Area Description: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are not attainable in the Pisgah Mountain unit due to a combination of steep topography, sparse vegetation and narrow configuration. The possible transportation routes are limited by the rugged terrain and narrowness of the unit; therefore, restricting the opportunities for solitude. The lack of vegetative screening provides no barriers from sights and sounds of other individuals or distractions within the unit. Therefore, outstanding opportunities for solitude do not exist in this unit.

Evaluation of Public Comments: No public comments were received addressing opportunities for solitude.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Area Description: Opportunities for sightseeing, photography, hunting, and river rafting are available in the unit. The extremely steep topography and narrow configuration somewhat limit these opportunities or confine them to a relatively small portion of the unit. These opportunities are not considered to be outstanding.

Evaluation of Public Comments: No public comments were received addressing opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Area Description: The presence of the Colorado River adjacent to the unit enhances the scenic qualities of the area and provides an interesting contrast in the ecosystems from the typical dry, rocky grassland area throughout the remaining portion of the unit.

Evaluation of Public Comments: No public comment was received on supplemental values.

POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION:

After boundary adjustments, all impacts that occur within the intensive study unit are minimal. Due to the dry, rocky alkaline soil the process of natural rehabilitation of the existing ways would be slow. The reservoirs have begun to revegetate naturally, and eventually will be unnoticeable. No public comment addressed this issue.

RATIONALE FOR NOT IDENTIFYING THIS UNIT AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA:

The unit is long and narrow, averaging less than two miles wide. The narrow configuration, steep terrain, and sparse vegetation all severely restrict any outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Therefore, the Pisgah Mountain unit does not meet the criteria for a W.S.A.

NON-INVENTORY INFORMATION

No comments were received addressing non-inventory information.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Pisgah Mountain
CO 070 421

NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED: 4

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RECEIVED: 4
(Often one comment is endorsed
by more than one person)

FORM OF COMMENTS:

2 Personal Letters
___ Postcards
1 Public Comments Forms
___ Meetings
1 Phone Calls
___ Other

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF COMMENTS:

4 Colorado
0 Utah
0 Other

RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES OF COMMENTS:

3 # FOR Wilderness Study Area Designation
1 # AGAINST Wilderness Study Area Designation
___ # No Recommendation Given

		RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCES			GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN		
		PRO WSA	AGAINST WSA	NO RECOMMENDATIONS	COLORADO	UTAH	OTHER STATE
GROUP AFFILIATION	ENVIRONMENTAL GP.						
	INDUSTRY/BUSINESS		1		1		
	OFF-ROAD VEHICLE						
	LOCAL GOVT.						
	STATE GOVT.						
	FEDERAL GOVT.						
	INDIVIDUAL	3			3		
	OTHER						
RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	PRO WSA	▨	▨	▨	3		
	AGAINST WSA	▨	▨	▨	1		
	NO RECOMMENDATION	▨	▨	▨			

NOTE: The analysis of comments did not involve vote-counting. Comments have been evaluated for their informational content only. This tabulation simply summarizes the background and general sentiments of those persons commenting on this unit.

ALPHABETICAL INDEX

AREA NAME	INVENTORY NUMBER	PAGE
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Dinosaur National Monument Adjacent-South	CO-010-00N1-00N6A	106
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Irish Canyon	CO-010-210	98
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AREA NAME	INVENTORY NUMBER	PAGE
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